



Magazine

No. 162 March 2021

Dear Friends

As we reflect on our faith and our lives in the Christian season of Lent, here are some words Mother Teresa had placed on the walls of the children's home that she ran.

- ✓ *People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centred. Forgive them anyway.*
- ✓ *If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.*
- ✓ *If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.*
- ✓ *If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.*
- ✓ *What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.*
- ✓ *If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous, be happy anyway.*
- ✓ *The good you do today will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.*
- ✓ *Give the best you have and it will never be enough. Give anyway.*
- ✓ *In the final analysis it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.*

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning



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

FEBRUARY KIRK SESSION

The February meeting was a Zoom meeting.

Emerging from lockdown – The Moderator reported that the Clerk and the Administrator had arranged and the caretakers had taken it in turn to support four lets to the Hermitage GP practice as a vaccination centre. The arrangements were much appreciated by attendees and the Clerk reported that the church staff had been highly praised for their work. The Clerk reported that a repeat two day booking had been arranged with the LibDems for a virtual conference and there was a further booking in May for a polling station for the Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Planning for the future – South Group -The Moderator reported that a further Zoom meeting of the South Group to consider Presbytery Reform had taken place. The Clerk commented that it is not likely that Presbytery will be in the position to give a view on the new Presbytery plan soon, as the numbers of ministerial positions available to the Presbytery will not be decided until after the General Assembly in May. The meeting had to an extent been dominated by the announcement from the Revd Dr Martin Ritchie that he would be leaving Greenbank having accepted a call to a church in the USA.

Presbytery - The Moderator reported that the proposed union of Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbyteries will be put to the Assembly in May and that discussions are underway about the possible creation of an even larger Presbytery incorporating the current Lothian and three Borders Presbyteries. It is anticipated that the new Presbytery will only meet four times a year. He congratulated Chris McNeil on his invitation to be an equalising elder at the next General Assembly in May which, as in 2020, will be a shorter affair and held online.

Education – Kenny Robertson, Convenor reported that opportunities for adult education had necessarily been restricted by the pandemic. However the Sunday Club had continued to meet using Zoom and the children had enjoyed producing paintings which were displayed in the windows of the Church halls and had been the subject of much favourable comment. He praised the effort put in by Norma Wilson and Rona McLaren for their hard work in producing every week a different programme for the children combining religious education with fun. Session too expressed their appreciation and looked forward to the possibility of Easter pictures for hall window display.

Worship – Douglas Paterson, Convener When looking back to the Worship report to Session of February 2020, one line resonated with particular irony. Referring to the disturbance to normal congregational life (and especially worship) occasioned by the preceding extensive work in the sanctuary and to the new opportunities which it was opening up, the report noted that the year to February 2020 had seen its share of “change, challenge and experiment”. It was a line which might more usefully have been reserved to introduce this year’s report. Considerable efforts were involved from August to enable worship ‘within the rules’ until Christmas– including Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas day itself. It is not at all clear how or in what time scale the current pattern of restrictions is likely to evolve. Holy Week and Easter are already inescapably on the horizon. Continuing uncertainty over what may be allowable in church makes detailed planning problematic and the use of our online capacity more likely. It would be encouraging

to think that it may not be too long before we can realistically turn our thoughts to planning for a 'return to normal' service and perhaps larger scale memorial service in the light of numbers affected by funeral restrictions.

The Moderator commented that he was planning to hold a live streamed communion service on 7th March.

Communication – Isobel Paterson, Convenor, advised that because of the restrictions imposed under Tier 4 pandemic regulations, hand delivery of paper copies of the Magazine could not be undertaken although it would still be produced by email. Likewise there would be no Easter leaflet delivered this year.

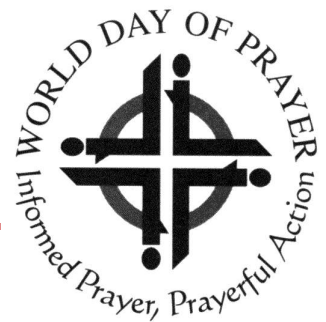
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 5th MARCH 2021

The WDP theme for 2021 is:

"Build on a strong foundation".

The service has been written by women of Vanuatu.

From Tuesday 23rd February Scottish WDP Committee has planned for "10 Days of Prayer", which will be posted on the [wdpscotland website](#) and their Facebook Page. Leaders of 10 denominations have been invited to share a Thought for the Day, focussing on Vanuatu.



As services in church cannot be held on March 5th, the **Scottish Committee invites those who have access to join them in a live WDP service at 2pm, hosted on Zoom**. The service will be recorded and posted on the website (www.wdpscotland.org.uk) and Facebook Page for later access. Details for joining the live service are available on request, and will be on website and Facebook Page of World Day of Prayer Scotland.

Marie Ogilvie
(email: marieogilvie@btinternet.com; tel: 668 1759)



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of the following member:

Mrs Rosemary Owens who died on 8th February 2021

WORSHIP MATTERS

Sunday services

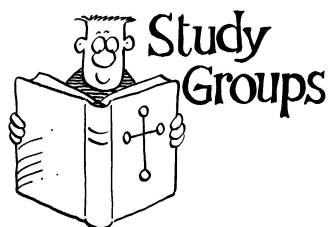
At time of writing restrictions mean that all 10.30am services from the Church are live-streamed, and can be watched later on in the week. The order of service and the sermon are also available to read online.

Holy Week 2021

Palm Sunday is on 28th March. The Holy Week services, shared with Greenbank and hosted in our Church this year, will run from 29th March to Good Friday on 2nd April. As we are still likely to be restricted in the way we conduct services and around attendances, the services will be live-streamed at 7.30pm each evening. There will be an online Communion Service on Maundy Thursday, 1st April. A decision will be taken about whether or not there will be an online service on Holy Saturday.

Easter Sunday is on Sunday 4th April.

If there are any changes to the regulations, further announcements will be made.



ONLINE LENT COURSE 2021

This year's Lent Course will be held online, via Zoom. The theme has been prepared by St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London around the idea, 'Inspired to Follow: Art and the Bible Story'. The course is entitled 'Who is my Neighbour? – A journey through Lent'. It will be led by our Probationer Minister, Dr Conor Fegan, assisted by the Minister. There will be four sessions, either on Wednesday evenings at 7.30PM or Thursday mornings at 10.30am.

Wednesday 3 March	7.30pm	Thursday 4 March	10:30am
Wednesday 10 March	7.30pm	Thursday 11 March	10:30am
Wednesday 17 March	7.30pm	Thursday 18 March	10:30am
Wednesday 24 March	7.30pm	Thursday 25 March	10:30am

The course includes the following sessions:

- Giving Hospitality to Strangers - Luke 10: 25-42 and 'Christ in the House of Martha and Mary', Diego Velázquez, probably 1618, NG1375
- Standing Up for the Oppressed - Mark 11: 4-12 & 15-19 and 'Christ driving the Traders from the Temple', El Greco, about 1600, NG1457
- Carrying Another's Load (Simon of Cyrene) - Luke 23:26-33 and 'Christ carrying the Cross', Italian, Venetian, about 1500, NG6655
- Being a Neighbour to Those on the Road - Luke 24:25-35 and 'The Supper at Emmaus', Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, 1601, NG172

To get the link for the Zoom meetings, and for further details, please contact Conor Fegan, cfegan@churchofscotland.org.uk

A CHANGE THIS LENT?

Historically we in the Church of Scotland have not focused a great deal on the traditions that other denominations observe during the season of Lent. Other Churches have longstanding activities that their members do. Even though it is not something that we think is necessary, I imagine most of us are familiar with the idea. For many, much like Advent, Lent is a time of preparation and reflection, a time to take stock of and refocus on faith. For some it is a time to make a change in their lives.

This impressive intention, one might assume, would require a similarly ambitious effort – some grand commitment to charity or prayer for instance. For most though, this time of year is somewhat less ostentatious, and probably more familiar. Many people choose to forgo, or ‘give up’ something for lent. Avoiding chocolate or treats (one year I gave up oranges). I understand the theory, testing and denying oneself something in order to emulate Jesus’ fasting and discipline in the desert. I wonder, however, if this really is the best way to reorient our lives towards Jesus.

What do we gain in this of all years, by trying to make ourselves more disciplined, and most likely less happy? Of course, for some there is a pleasure, a sense of achievement in this kind of activity. This year, though, we have already given up so much that is important to us.

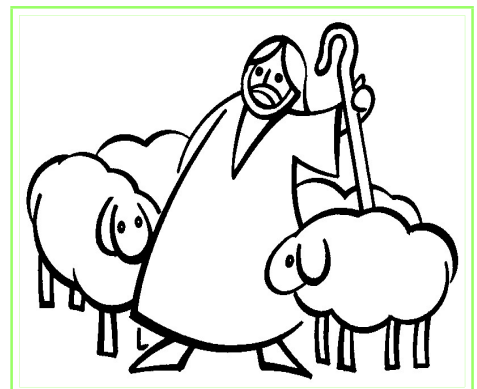
Despite this, I still think this Lent may be a time for us to choose to make a positive change in our lives. Instead of giving something up, maybe we could think about doing something new instead. Maybe we could decide to phone or visit (when we are allowed to) a friend or neighbour who needs some company; we could plan to do some charity work; we could decide to spend more time considering our faith; we could address those parts of our own lives that we neglect; we could even make a commitment to accept help when we need it.

For most of us this past year has been difficult, but as we hopefully come towards the end of the pandemic, instead of thinking about giving up more, I think it is time for us to turn our minds to the next chapter. Time for us to consider how we can improve our own lives and those of others. Time for us to make a change this Lent for the better.

Conor Fegan

PASTORAL CARE AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH DURING COVID-19

The Minister, 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! At time of writing, home visits, along with hospital and nursing home visits are still not possible.





CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ

This month and next month, in the run up to Christian Aid week in May, we have a two part quiz which we hope you'll put your mind to. There is a prize to be won of a rather special magnum of red wine from Tuscany, to the person with the highest overall score

over the two rounds. All you need to do to win is make a donation of any amount to Christian Aid (go to caweek.org) and submit your answers this month and next month to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk. The answers to this month's quiz will be published in the April magazine so your answers must be with us **by Wednesday 10th March 2021**.

So this month the quiz has three sections:

Section one asks you to unscramble a dozen anagrams, all of which are places around Morningside.

Section two has six photos taken which feature the Church spire or the spire of our former Cluny Centre. All you need to do is say where the photos were taken from.

Section three has six photos taken round Edinburgh and for these you just have to identify what you're looking at.

So best of luck.. but do have a go this month so you're still in the running next month.

ANAGRAMS OF PLACES AROUND MORNINGSIDE

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Rory Lochen (4,6) | 8. Radar dobi (5,4) |
| 2. Mid onion. (8) | 9. I Dry Esme (8) |
| 3. Ingrid's omen (11) | 10. My hen can tan (3,5,3) |
| 4. Doon rope (4,4) | 11. Diver Dimran (6,5) |
| 5. A right beamer (9,3) | And closer to home... |
| 6. Naan ale can (6,4) | 12. Swatts them (2,8) |
| 7. Vile qoner (4,5) | |
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FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – FEBRUARY 22ND – MARCH 7TH

Fairtrade Fortnight 2021 marks the start of a new climate campaign asking the British public to get behind Fairtrade so that farmers overseas can benefit from fairer prices, fairer trading practices and the resources needed for tackling the climate emergency

As global trade changes, poverty will continue to be a key contributor to further environmental degradation and the inability for farmers to adapt to environmental shocks. What can you do in support?

Buy Fairtrade products to support the right for farmers to be paid fairly for their work, meaning they have the chance to fight the challenges of the climate crisis right now.

Look forward to when we can once again enjoy Fairtrade coffee together after worship!

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ PART 1: WHERE WERE THESE PHOTOS TAKEN FROM?



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



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



PHOTO 4



PHOTO 5



PHOTO 6

CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ PART 3: IDENTIFY THE PICTURE



PHOTO 7



PHOTO 8



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



PHOTO 10



PHOTO 11



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

BETHANY CARE SHELTER UPDATE

For the past 11 years Morningside Parish Church has provided a volunteer catering team on the Bethany Christian Trust Care Shelter catering rota during the winter months when the Shelter was open as a haven for rough sleepers in Edinburgh, providing overnight accommodation, a hot meal, friendship and advice for as many as 70 homeless men and women every night.

The Care Shelter venue varied over the years from a series of centrally located Church Halls to latterly the Diadem Centre in Gorgie, which was previously St Aidan's Stenhouse Parish Church prior to its union with Gorgie and Dalry Churches to become the present day Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Parish Church.

At the start of the pandemic last March, due to social distancing requirements and with financial help in a very welcome national effort to end rough sleeping from the Scottish Government, the Care Shelter venue moved from the multi-bed site within the Diadem Centre to hotel premises and became known as the new "Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre".

The Welcome Centre is now situated in the Haymarket Hub Hotel, providing 24-hour accommodation, meals and individual resettlement advice for up to 60 homeless men and women every night to help them move out of homelessness into more permanent accommodation.

Working closely with The City of Edinburgh Council Housing Department and other agencies such as Housing First, Bethany has been greatly encouraged that many of those coming to the Welcome Centre have now moved on successfully to more permanent accommodation and will continue to receive support.

Church catering teams are still required to provide the evening meals and Central Church in Tollcross has kindly provided their kitchen premises for cooking the food which is then transported down to the Haymarket Hub Hotel and served to the residents.

As Team Leader Anne McNeil has decided to retire after an 11 year stint and the team has now disbanded, partly due to the increased risks in the age profile of our volunteers of exposure to the virus in the new scenario, but if anyone is interested in starting a new catering team or in volunteering with another existing Church team please let Anne McNeil know and she will pass on the details to Ruth Longmuir, Manager of the Bethany Welcome Centre.

Meanwhile Anne wishes to thank all volunteers who have served so faithfully on the catering team over the years (you know who you are!) and thank you to all members of the congregation who supported the Bethany coffee morning each year to raise funds to buy the food as well as those who gave generous individual donations.

Anne McNeil

FLOWER COMMITTEE

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. Although there are no fresh flowers in the church, flower deliveries are now taking place which are being financed by monies received for the provision of flowers in the church over this period.



Flowers on 7th, 14th and 21st March will be provided by the Flower Fund.

Donations in March: 28 March 2021 Donation from Hazel Nicolson

Uptake of the Flower List for 2021 has been poor to date with dates still available on

- 11, 18 and 25 April;
- 2 and 9 May;
- 6 June;
- 4, 11, 18 and 25 July;
- 8, 15 and 29 August;
- 12 and 19 September;
- 28 November and
- 5 December.

I understand that many people prefer to see real flowers in church, but until such time as restrictions permit and flowers can safely be arranged and delivered, monies donated will be used to provide flower deliveries which I know are much appreciated by those who receive them.

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
Convener - Flower Committee

A PLEA FROM NHS STAFF

Please make sure that you and your family have a copy of your NHS number to hand when you attend for your COVID jab. Front line staff say this is far and away the biggest bottleneck when it comes to administering the vaccine to as many people as quickly as possible as most people don't know their number off by heart. The easiest way to do this is to take your letter inviting you to attend with you when you go as the number is on the correspondence.



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 also 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, or on the Weekly Email from the Minister.

There was a significant impact on Church finances last year and this will continue well into this year. 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.

APPEAL FROM SUNDAY CLUB

This Easter, Sunday Club wishes to Yarn Bomb Morningside Parish Church to cheer Our Community up for Easter - it's been a hard year for everyone.

You're all asking what Yarn Bombing is - if you Google it, it will tell you graffiti with wool. We want to do it tastefully though (like other churches have done in Edinburgh, Lothians and indeed throughout the UK and the World during Harvest, at Remembrance and Christmas). We intend to commandeer one of the trees, decorate it with knitted Easter Eggs, Woolly Pompoms, Easter Chicks (we have to stay off the Bunnies though so we don't upset Derek). Have a woolly wrap round the trunk. We also want to do a couple of collages - one with Easter Lambs and the other of the Hill at Calvary on a sunny morning.

As you know, Sunday Club are low in numbers (we have met every Sunday over Zoom since September or October) but are all really enthusiastic. Jamie (aged 7) tells me he can crochet. We need your help too, get the knitting pins and crochet hooks out and with the odds and ends of wool that we all have in our cupboards please knit, crochet any of the above or just simply coloured squares which we will be able to incorporate into our Creation - knitting is a FAB-U-LOUS way of getting through these long dark nights of lockdown (least I've found that). If you can't knit can you manage some woolly pompoms for us - traditionally all you need is two circles of card with the middles cut out to make these although Craft Shops now sell pompom making kits!

If you are able to help, we'd be so grateful and this will be a super way for Sunday Club to OUTREACH to the Community. Phone me on 07929830112 if you can help or need more information.

Thank you

Rona McLaren

APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 12th March 2021** and it will be available by Sunday 28th March. 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.

Mysteries, Yes, by Mary Oliver

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvellous
to be understood.

How grass can be nourishing in the
mouths of the lambs.
How rivers and stones are forever
in allegiance with gravity
while we ourselves dream of rising.
How two hands touch and the bonds will
never be broken.
How people come, from delight or the
scars of damage,
to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance, always, from those
who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company always with those who say
“Look!” and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.

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Join us for worship each Sunday, by clicking on the link on our website to join us online
either live at 10.30am or at a later date. www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk