



# Magazine

No. 164 May 2021

Dear Friends

Jonathan Sacks tells a story of an old rabbi looking out over the town square. Everywhere he saw people rushing. He called out to one man, 'What are you rushing for?' The man replied, 'I'm running to make a living.' The rabbi responded, 'What makes you so sure that your livelihood is in front of you so that you have to rush to catch it up? What if it's behind you? Maybe you should stop and let it catch up with you.'

In or out of lockdown, people in our time have filled their days, hours, moments with endless activity. It has been a surprising reality that most of us can still be working flat out at our jobs and lives even when we were largely restricted to our homes. For many it has been exhausting. Too many people feel endlessly pressurized trying to juggle home and work, family and career, ambition and recreation. We run in order to stand still. Often the harder we work, the harder we feel the need to work. We can find ourselves so busy making a living that we never seem to have the time simply to enjoy being alive. When do we stop to let our blessings catch up with us?

This is why holy times are important. I found Holy Week, even without a congregation

present in the building, such a time. I found Easter Sunday, with a congregation present, such a time. Where things seemed, for a moment, to slow down and we focussed on worship. For those short times, for me at least, the pressures of the outside world disappear and life becomes simpler and more serene. In older times observing the Sabbath was corrective to the need to be at work all of the time. Today it is an antidote to stress, the most effective I know.



Worship, as a form of rest, sets priorities in perspective. When life becomes an uninterrupted succession of pressures, we lose the natural rhythms of life, work and rest, striving and relaxing, creating and enjoying.

Sometimes we travel so fast we completely miss the view. Sometimes we are so wrapped up in our own lives we fail to notice the person we live with, or sit next to, or work beside. At regular intervals we need to stop, pause, and breathe deeply. Happiness needs tranquillity. As that old rabbi said, it is right there behind us, waiting for us to rest so that it can catch us up.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

## APRIL KIRK SESSION

The April meeting was a Zoom meeting.

**Emerging from Lockdown:** In person worship resumed on Easter Day with social distancing, restrictions on numbers attending, and advance booking. The Moderator was unaware of any imminent changes to the Scottish Government's regulations, so for the time being, in person worship will continue in this fashion. There has, however, been some resumption of activity in the Church and halls with the return of the After School Club when the schools reopen, and plans for the sanctuary to be used as a vaccination station and as a Polling Station for the upcoming election.

**Property: Moira Clark, Convenor** reported that there had been some problems with lighting in the office and Cluny Hall which have now been fixed. Problems with the electricity meter continue, certain health and safety issues have been identified, but it appears that any action will require Scottish Power's involvement.

**Pastoral: Doreen Reekie, Convenor** reported that due to the restrictions of the lockdown little has changed, visitors cannot visit in person but do keep in touch through regular phone calls. Doreen too regularly keeps in contact with people who are on their own or would welcome a call. She has prepared welcome packs in preparation for when she can visit people again.

**Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay** reported that she continues to contact people, in line with restrictions, through phone, email, and letter, as well as delivering flowers. She noted that many people were grateful for contact with her or their Elder.

**Communications: The Moderator** reported that there are plans for delivery of printed copies of the May Church Magazine, but due to Covid restrictions this would have to be delivery only, not a visit.

**Education: The Moderator** thanked the Sunday Club and uniformed organisations for their wonderful work in decorating the 'Easter Tree' in front of the Church and for the two tableaux in the windows of the Cluny and Braid Halls.

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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

There will be another online General Assembly in May this year, a slightly shorter event. The Assembly will run from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 10am-12noon and 1-3.30pm; Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May – 1-3.30pm and 4-6pm. It is not clear if there will be an Assembly service yet on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The Minister will be presenting a report to the Assembly on Monday afternoon, on The Effectiveness of Presbyterian Government.

The Moderator of the General Assembly will be Lord James Wallace of Tankerness, an elder from Orkney's St Magnus Cathedral (and former leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats). The Lord High Commissioner will be Prince William, Earl of Strathearn (as he's known in Scotland).

You will be able to watch the proceedings on line at the Church of Scotland website when the General Assembly is live.

## WORSHIP MATTERS

It's wonderful to have the Church even partially reopened for worship at the 10.30am service. The restrictions at the moment are for a maximum of 50 people in attendance, wearing face-coverings, socially distanced and not singing. You know the drill! Places must be booked via the church office by phone or by email.

We stay with the restrictions until they are lifted. The 9.30am service will not restart until the autumn. Hopefully the next stages to returning to the more usual service will be, in time, unrestricted attendance, no face coverings, and singing. We wait in hope!

At the time of writing it is still not clear that a 'normal' communion will be possible in June.

Over this long, difficult period, a sincere word of thanks to those who have kept worship going, either in the restricted format, or during the two lockdowns. A number of people have played up-front roles, and behind-the-scenes roles in what have been particularly challenging circumstances. Who would have thought that the cameras put in so tentatively a few years ago would have been so useful to us over these last months. Grateful thanks to everyone involved.



### 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.

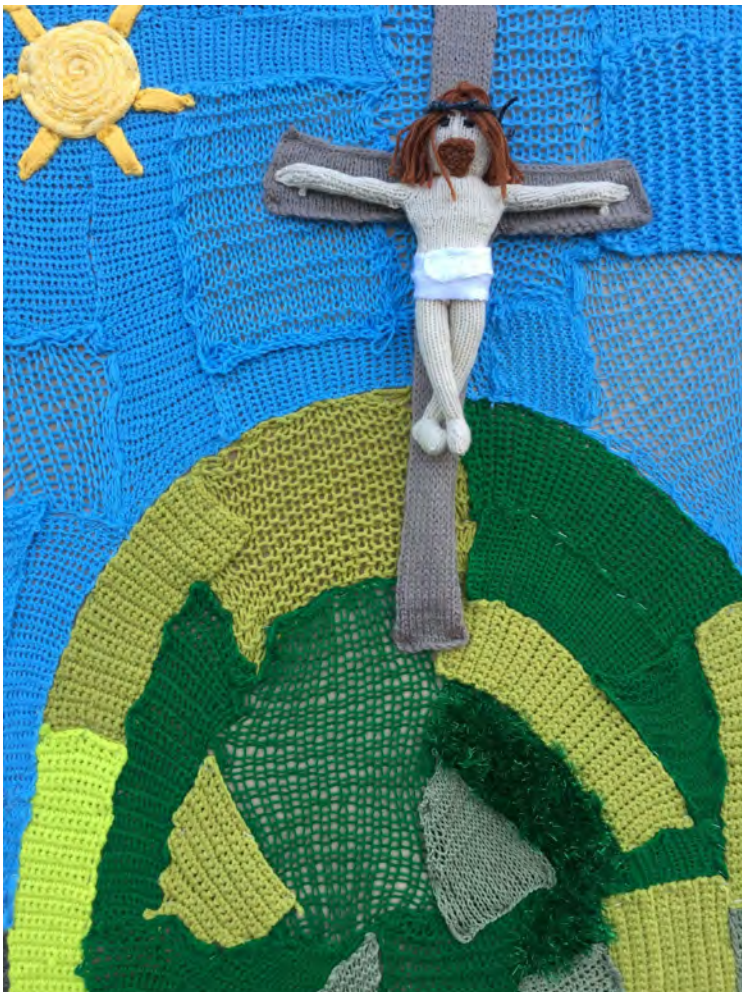
**Thank you** to everyone who continues to be generous with their financial giving at this time.

## EASTER YARN BOMBING BY THE SUNDAY CLUB AND FRIENDS

What is Yarn Bombing? It can be described as a type of graffiti or street art that uses colourful displays of knitted or crocheted yarn.

We wanted it to be tasteful! I was inspired after seeing it in other churches in Edinburgh and Midlothian during the festive season before we were unable to move outwith our Health Board Area. For example, Priestfield Parish Church had angels, Roslin Parish Church had Christmas trees - seeing them made me hopeful that things would get better and it felt good to see them.

I suggested at the Session Meeting about 8 weeks ago that I thought it would be good to do something like that at Morningside at Easter. There were a few puzzled faces but we were given the go ahead so at the beginning of Lent we put the idea to the young people in Sunday Club and they started making yellow pompoms to turn into Easter chicks. Knowing that they might not be able to knit or crochet we appealed to the wider Congregation through the Church Magazine - in particular to the housebound - to help us in knitting eggs. The 188th Guides also helped by making pompoms.



We amassed somewhere in the region of 200 eggs, chicks and pompoms which were used to decorate the cherry tree at the corner of Cluny Gardens and Braid Road. As Norma Wilson and I decorated the tree on Maundy Thursday, lots of passers-by stopped to comment, saying "what a lovely idea. It's really cheerful in what has been a terrible year". And some intended to return bringing their families to see the tree.

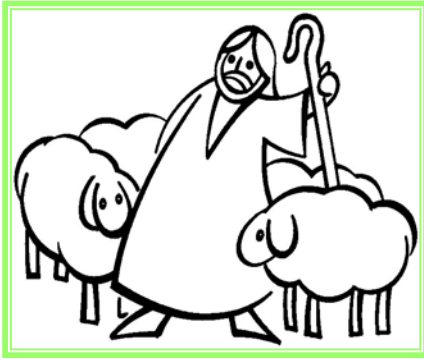
In addition to the "bombing" of the tree, we created two knitted friezes, one in the Braid Hall window showing Jesus on the Cross and the other in the Cluny Hall window showing the Empty Tomb.

It was hard work but good fun - and we got all generations of Morningside Parish interacting with each other - superb. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Rona McLaren



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



## 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, but we hope, if things keep moving forward, that visiting will be possible in the not too distant future.

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### LIFE AND WORK - MAY 2021

**The Privilege of Democracy:** Thomas Baldwin explains why churches have a key role to play in this month's elections to the Scottish Parliament

**'A Cherished Part of the Church's Tradition':** The Rt Hon Baron Wallace of Tankerness QC looks ahead to his year as Moderator-Designate to the 2021 General Assembly with Lynne McNeil, as he encourages elders to serve more widely in the Church of Scotland

**Assembly 2021:** Timetable and reports to this year's General Assembly, which will be held online

**God's Table:** The first in a new series of Bible studies by the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning, focusing on hospitality

**Kirk Session Records Launched Online:** More than a million pages of local Church of Scotland records have been published online for the first time

**New Guild Partner Projects Unveiled:** The six new three-year projects adopted by the Church of Scotland Guild

**Our Planet is Changing:** Val Brown of Christian Aid Scotland introduces the campaign for this year's Christian Aid Week



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### ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr Charles Watt

Revd Alistair Keil and Mrs Karen Keil

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

Mrs Winifred Cameron, who died on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Mrs Anna Barr who, we have just heard, died in 2020



## CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ

Here are the answers to the second part of the two part quiz which we hope you enjoyed, even if you didn't submit your answers, in the run up to Christian Aid week in May. The prize of a magnum of Tuscan wine goes to

Douglas and Isobel Paterson – many congratulations to you both! Many thanks too, to Robert Armour for his time, effort and imagination in putting this together.

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### Section 1: KNOW YOUR MORNINGSIDE?

1. What famous painter lived at 14-16 Jordan Lane? SAM BOUGH
2. What year did the Dominion open? 1938
3. A highway robbery took place in Morningside on 23 November 1814. Where did it happen? 66 BRAID ROAD
4. Morningside Lodge (built 1780) was extended and its name changed to what? FALCON HALL
5. Morningside station on the Edinburgh suburban line opened in what year? 1884
6. Napier's Craiglockhart campus was originally what when it opened in 1880? CRAIGLOCKHART HYDROPATHIC ...A HOTEL
7. The Volunteer Arms or The Canny Man's was previously named what? THE RIFLEMAN OR THE VOLUNTEER'S REST
8. The medieval farm of Egypt ran from Hermitage Drive to the Pow burn. What connects the street names Cluny, Corennie and Midmar built on the farm lands? ABERDEENSHIRE ESTATES OF THE GORDON FAMILY.
9. The road toll in Morningside Road ended in 1883. But when did the old toll house at 259 move to Hermitage of Braid? 1888
10. Waverley Terrace, Marmion Terrace, Banner Place, Morningside Bank, Esplin Place, Blackford Place are now all connected. How? ALL BECAME SUBSUMED INTO MORNINGSIDE ROAD.
11. Morningside High (Free) Church became what? CHURCH HILL THEATRE
12. Peter O'Toole played someone born in Goshen House in 1874 whose life was featured in a Bernardo Bertolucci film. Who was he, and what was his job? REGINALD JOHNSTON, TUTOR TO THE LAST EMPEROR OF CHINA



### 13. Section 2: EDINBURGH QUESTIONS - ANSWERS:

1. - 10. Where are the following buried in Edinburgh?

David Hume & Daniel Stewart	Old Calton Burial Ground
Clarinda & Adam Smith	Canongate
Thomas Riddell	Greyfriars
Ebenezer Lennox Scroggie	Canongate
Rev Thomas Chalmers & Robin Cook	Grange
George Reid and Christian Salvesen	Rosebank
Sir James Young Simpson, Hippolyte Blanc & John Menzies	Warriston
The Great Lafayette, Samuel Evans VC , George Wilson VC	Piershill
John Napier, Alexander Nasmyth	St Cuthbert's
David Octavius Hill , Elsie Inglis & John Bellany	Dean

11. The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers set down the first 13 rules of golf in 1744. Where did they play then? LEITH LINKS

12. The Union canal ended at a port named after a Duke. Which Duke? HAMILTON

13. The Athletic Arms , commonly known as Diggers , is so called because of its historic link with which trade? GRAVEDIGGING

14. Which famous politician's Midlothian campaign swayed the outcome of the 1880 election? GLADSTONE

15. Which more recent politician framed the West Lothian question? TAM DALYELL

16. Ensign Ewart of the Scots Greys captured an eagle at Waterloo. In what regiment's Edinburgh museum does the Eagle now rest? THE ROYAL SCOTTISH DRAGOON GUARDS

17-18. The 2nd and 5th battalions of the Royal Regiment of Scotland are based at Glencorse and Redford barracks respectively. The battalions take the names of former Scottish regiments. What names go with the 2nd and 5th battalions? ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS & THE ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS

19. Every officer of a Royal Company is ranked as a general and their ordinary members rank as colonels. Where in Edinburgh is this Company's base? THE ROYAL COMPANY OF ARCHERS, BUCCLEUGH ST

20. Named to honour the visit of Prince Alfred in 1867, Edinburgh of the Seven Seas is the main settlement on which island? TRISTAN DA CUNHA



## FLOWER COMMITTEE

Following a late flurry of donations after the last magazine had gone to press, flowers on the following Sundays were provided as follows:

21 March Donated by Liz Clapham  
11 April Donated by Marie Ogilvie  
18 April Donated by Sam Frost and Anne Sutherland  
25 April Donated by Ewan and Sally Brown

Flowers in May will be provided as follows:

2 May Donated by Margaret Gossip  
9 May Donated by Kenny Robertson  
16 May Donated by Eleanor Watt  
23 May Donated by Marie Ogilvie  
30 May Donated by Wallace Bell



I am delighted to say that the Flower Fund for 2021 is now complete with all dates filled. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have donated monies, especially during this time when we have been unable to have real flowers in church. Your donations have meant that we have been able to continue the delivery of flowers to members of the Congregation, which I know have been much appreciated. With restrictions gradually being lifted, "normal service" will resume as soon as safely possible.

Irene Wilson. Convener - Flower Committee

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## FRESH START UPDATE

The news lots of you will have been waiting for; Fresh Start can once again accept donations for Starter Packs!

From Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April, Fresh Start is open for donations again. The warehouse will be open from Monday - Thursday, 9 - 4pm but will remain closed on a Friday for the time being.

Just to re-iterate, the address of the warehouse is:

22-24 Ferry Road Drive, Edinburgh, EH4 4BR

I will let everyone know when we can accept donated items in the Church premises again. Meanwhile thanks to everyone in Morningside Parish Church for their support for Fresh Start.

Anne McNeil, Fresh Start Co-ordinator

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

## JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021** and it will be available by Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June. While restrictions on church opening continue, please email your contributions to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).

We hope to deliver this magazine but 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.

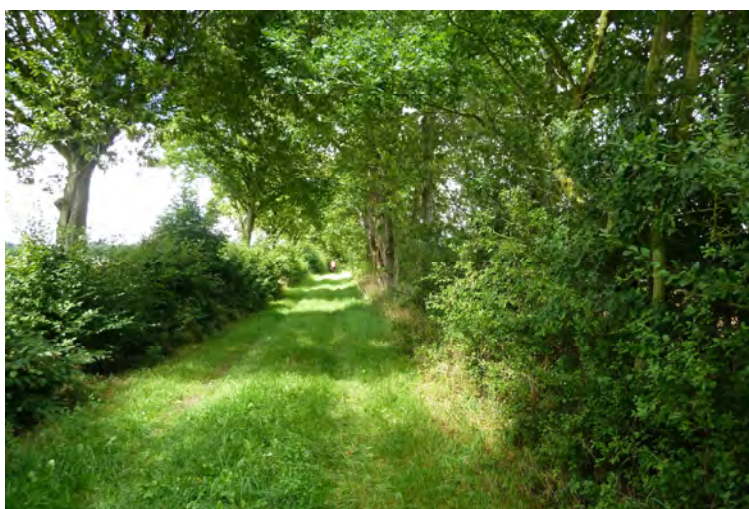
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### *The Trees by Philip Larkin*

The trees are coming into leaf  
Like something almost being said;  
The recent buds relax and spread,  
Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again  
And we grow old? No, they die too,  
Their yearly trick of looking new  
Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh  
In fullgrown thickness every May.  
Last year is dead, they seem to say,  
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.



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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](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)