



# Magazine

No. 166 September 2021

Dear Friends

At the time of writing in August, and just before I go on holiday, I along with several others have been wrestling with what might and might not be possible at Church as things begin to emerge.

The challenge, as is easy to imagine, is to keep that balance between those who have concerns and wish to be cautious, and those who have concerns and wish to move ahead. There's right on both sides, and a need to work carefully and hopefully through these days. But it seems, however tentative at times, that the direction of travel is towards the light.

Not just in our congregation, but in our country, the anxiety and the frustration, the tension between those who fear a resurgence of the virus, and those who feel they cannot go on living in restriction much longer, is beyond palpable. Everybody wants to do the right thing, but what works for one person clearly will not work for another. Should we or should we not compromise?

Former First Lady Barbara Bush said "I hate the fact that people think 'compromise' is a dirty word." Whereas former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that if you are prepared to "...compromise on anything at any time...you would achieve nothing." Or perhaps we should go with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel's advice: "That is why everyone in politics ... must

make sure that they do not depend on one single interest group. A good compromise is one where everybody makes a contribution."

As we move forward, at whatever speed, I believe that what is going to help us best of all will be *everybody making a contribution*. I am in no doubt that for our Church, in Morningside, in Edinburgh, and in Scotland, the push forward, and not to return simply to what we were before as if nothing had changed, is irresistible. It may be uncomfortable and upsetting, but it is

irresistible. Our challenge is to catch that wave, take with us from our heritage what will help and heal and make us whole, and begin the new things God always intends.



Isn't it ironic that it is in the wild book of apocalypse, the Revelation of John, that we find in the vision of the new heaven and the new earth, the words of God, "Behold, I make all things new."?

For us, that is going to take everyone making a contribution, playing a part, expressing a view, and doing something that will help our Church move on from lockdown, and lift up into the continuing revelation of **God's** new heaven and new earth today.

*Very Revd Dr Derek Browning*

## JUNE KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session had a Zoom meeting on 8 June.

**Resignation of Chris McNeil as Equalising Presbytery Elder** – Chris McNeil has served in this role for 6 years, including serving on the Social and Community Interest Committee and organising 2 seminars. The Moderator and the Session expressed their thanks to Chris for his undertaking of this role.

- **Report from General Assembly** – Chris McNeil had been a Commissioner at the Assembly which once again was a “virtual” event for most Commissioners, although there were present in the Assembly Hall the “top table”, including the Moderator, Assembly Clerk, Procurator and Solicitor as well as Conveners when giving their reports. He had been impressed by the technology which had successfully brought together over 600 commissioners, able not only to view the proceedings but to participate in speaking and voting. He thought the Assembly Moderator had dealt well with the technology and the business and thought Prince William’s speeches had been gracious and indicated his love of Scotland. Chris highlighted the decision to “green” the investment portfolio, by disinvesting in funds relating to fossil fuels, which will impact on dividends; and the proposals to increase the size and reduce the numbers of Presbyteries to about ten. There was also a recognition that the number of ministers available will in early course reduce from 800 to 600. A resolution had been passed to permit, but not enforce, ministers to conduct same sex marriages. This change requires to be passed to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act and will only become church law if a majority of Presbyteries agree by 31 December and it is approved again at the 2022 Assembly. Overall he described the decisions of the Assembly as controlled contraction.

Our Moderator also was impressed by the use of technology but was aware of a loss of the sense of gathering. He reported that the proposed contraction to 600 charges and 60 vacancies was targeted to be in place by 2025. Presbyteries will need to start reviewing their plans although he did advise that the suggested figures for each Presbytery were indicative only at this stage. There may need to be some adjustments to reflect the conundrum that while Glasgow and Edinburgh together currently contribute 25% of income, if the number of charges is reduced as proposed there is a danger of “killing the geese that lay the golden eggs”. If national income is reduced it will mean fewer funds to support charges in poorer and rural areas, yet a wealthy congregational income should not provide immunity from review.

The Assembly had approved the report on the *Effectiveness of Presbyterianism*, chaired by our Moderator, which apart from concluding that churches should “*Cheer Up*”, strongly urged Kirk Sessions to consider what sort of church they wanted to be and what they needed to do to achieve it. Our Moderator concluded that the decisions of this Assembly will have an impact over the next five years but nettles had been grasped and action passed to Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions. Any currently vacant charge with existing permission to call has until 31 December to install a new minister. If this deadline is not achieved they will have to delay until the determination of the new Presbytery plan for the relevant Presbytery is known.

- **Stewardship & Finance** – Robert Armour, Convenor, reported that –

The Committee’s focus has been split between monitoring the financial position of the Church and looking ahead to the second half of the year when we hope to see a greater opening up.

The Treasurer’s report shows that, with the exception of rental income, our giving has been holding up well. Legacies to the Church have also been a fortuitous and welcome boost to resources, albeit they stem from unhappy events. On the letting front, there appears to be good interest from tenant organisations in restarting from the end of the summer break, good retention of established lettings

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and some interest in new lets such as fitness classes and groups displaced from other premises still shutdown or with no caretaking and cleaning arrangements.

Looking ahead, we have been thinking about how to combine welcoming everyone back to Church with a celebration of greater freedom while also being mindful of those who lost loved ones during the last 18 months or suffered in other ways.

- **Pastoral Assistant's report** – Jacqui Lindsay reported that -

Visiting – she continues to phone, write, email, text and WhatsApp members of our congregation. She is now meeting people in cafes, visiting them at home when they are comfortable with this or in their gardens.

Care Homes – She has visited members in four local care homes. Restrictions in each vary but generally dictate that a person can only have two named visitors but some of our members either don't have family or family members are too far away to visit currently, hence her ability to take one of these named slots. Sometimes the visits are outside, sometimes in.

Flowers – She is still delivering flowers by hand which is a delight for her. Everyone loves to receive flowers and she currently arrives with the added bonus of a pot of marmalade – “what's not to like!”

- **Staff** – the Moderator and the Clerk have maintained regular contact with the staff. They have all been flexible in adjusting their working hours and location to enable effective support. The caretakers and church officer have all been on part time furlough for some time adjusting their worked hours as necessary. The Administrator has mainly worked from home but will return to working in the Church Office in August.

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## WORSHIP MATTERS

In August of this year we have begun the steady move towards a fuller expression of Church life in worship, but there have still been some physical distancing restrictions as well as the shorter service and the wearing of masks. However, it has been wonderful to sing again, even with masks.

9.30am Early Services restart on 5 September, with some slight amendments. Many have missed these shorter, more informal services and it will be good to welcome people back to this service.

The 10.30am service will welcome back children to the first part of the service from 5 September. For as long as we have to wear masks during the service, the shorter format will continue. We will continue with live-streaming services. This is not part of our church culture. We plan to return to the full number of seats in Church on 19 September, and after-church coffee will recommence on that date too.

The choir will resume once we have recruited choral scholars for the new session.

Harvest Thanksgiving will be an all-age service at 10.30am on Sunday 26 September when we plan to support our local food bank. More details appear elsewhere in this magazine and will be in the intimations nearer the time. There will be no 9.30am Early Service that day as usual.

The October Communion is **planned** for 3 October at 9.30am and 10.30am in the main sanctuary as usual. The Kirk Session will take a view at its September meeting on how this will be possible, but our hope is to have Communion as we normally do.

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NATIONAL GIVING DAY-

### HARVEST 2021

The Church of Scotland General Assembly in May 2021 passed a resolution (known as a “deliverance”) that all Church of Scotland congregations are encouraged to participate in a National Giving Day at a time of their choosing over the period Sunday 5 September to Sunday 31 October 2021.



The General Assembly agreed that all monies donated by participating congregations towards the National Giving Day will be for their own Church’s benefit (not Church of Scotland central funds) and will be ring-fenced and not included in future Ministry and Mission calculations for each congregation.

The General Assembly recognised that the Covid pandemic has adversely affected the finances of Churches across the land and our own Church has not been immune from that.

Our congregational giving has kept up extremely well in the circumstances, but we have been unable to avoid a major fall in income from other sources during the long period of the lockdown months when there was no rental income from the letting of our Halls and no fundraising activities were possible.

Morningside Parish Church has agreed to join this nationwide initiative and it has been proposed we will hold the Church of Scotland National Giving Day on Harvest Sunday 26 September and also on the two subsequent Sundays, namely Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October (Communion) and Sunday 10 October.

Rather than designating our congregation’s offerings from the National Giving Day to our general Church funds, the Stewardship & Finance Committee suggested that funds raised should be designated for the Dementia Project led by our pastoral assistant, Jacqui Lindsay.

Recently we have had very exciting news that a grant application made to the TOR Foundation (a Christian Charity) by Jacqui Lindsay for funding for the expansion of the Morningside Parish Church dementia project into the community has been successful.

Jacqui describes the project in detail below:

“**Music and memories in Morningside** (MMM) is a dementia friendly musical workshop, for those living with dementia and their carers. Started just a few months before lockdown, it was proving very popular. We relaunched on 9 August this year and have been heartened to welcome back some old friends as well as enjoying meeting new ones. The funding we received for this project came from **Go for It** and was for an initial 12-month pilot. More recently we were invited to apply for some funding from the TOR Foundation to help build and expand on the work that we do with the elderly. They have very kindly offered us £15,000 a year for three years, a condition of this being that MPC match this with £6,000 a year for the same three year period.

Our first priority of course is to consolidate and continue the work we are doing with **MMM**. Some of the ways in which we are looking to expand would be to offer **dementia friendly exercise classes** along with occasional **therapeutic animal workshop**.

We would also like to work on doing more with **intergenerational work**, encouraging activities with both elderly and young people together. We want to make our **Games afternoons** a monthly event.

We recently had our first **Dementia Friendly Concert** with the Choir for Emmanuel College Cambridge and links to this were also sent to the three care homes in our parish to share with residents. We are keen that these become a regular feature, maybe up to four times a year.

We also want to offer our **Pastoral Care Training** annually and to open this up to other churches in the local area to hopefully positively impact their work with the elderly and others.

During COVID we matched some senior pupils from George Watson's College with elderly people in the parish, to support with shopping etc. and we want to explore expanding this form of **befriending** over the coming three years.

These are some of the ideas and projects that we are keen to work on over the coming three years, all made possible by the generous grant awarded by TOR alongside the continuing generosity and support of our own congregation."

As Jacqui mentions, one of the conditions of the TOR Foundation grant states that the congregation should contribute a proportion of the overall cost of the project and accordingly it has been agreed that the funds donated on the three chosen Sundays will go towards this very worthwhile cause.

Please consider giving generously to our Church's life-enhancing work with those affected by dementia in our local community.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- 1. Place your donation (cash or cheque payable to Morningside Parish Church) in an envelope marked "National Giving Day" and either leave it in the offering tray at Church on one of the three Sundays involved or post it to/hand it in to the Church Office during opening hours or place in pigeonhole marked "Administrator" out of office hours.**
- 2. Donate by contactless payment at the machine situated next to the offering tray at the south entrance of the Sanctuary.**
- 3. Donate on-line by PayPal through the link on the weekly email or Church website.**

Chris McNeil, Treasurer



### **THANK YOU!**

From one of our caretakers, Phil McPhail  
*My wife, Nina, and I would like to thank all at Morningside Parish Church who contributed to our wedding gift. We've been really, really touched by your generosity. When the world today seems to be full of bad news, it's been a huge comfort to be reminded that there is so much kindness around. Many, many thanks from us both.*

Phil & Nina

## MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN MORNINGSIDE

We relaunched Music and Memories, our Musical workshop for those with dementia and their spouses/carers, on Monday 9 August. It was lovely to begin again and despite the somewhat inclement weather, a small but happy group gathered. I know that we have been missed and the need, sadly, is probably greater than ever.



In August we only offered the musical workshop but as of Monday 6 September we will follow the hour long workshop with tea and chat. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in joining us, can you please pass on this information.

### **DATES for 2021**

**Time: 2 – 4pm**

September:	Monday 6 & Friday 24:	October:	Monday 4 & Friday 22
November:	Monday 1 and Friday 19;	December:	Monday 6 & Friday 17

If you are able to let us know that you plan to come that would be great but if you simply need to wait and see on the day, please come along anyway, it will be great to see you.

To find out more, please phone me on: 07834 364 628  
or e mail at: [pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you

Jacqui Lindsay



## **HARVEST THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS – 26 September 2021**

As in 2019, we are going to mark the occasion of Harvest by organising a special effort to support in a more significant way the SE Edinburgh Foodbank, based at Southhouse Broadway.

Run by the Trussell Trust, this Foodbank issues food parcels to individuals and families who have been referred to them by partner organisations, voluntary agencies, schools, social workers and healthcare professionals. People can be referred owing to a variety of reasons – low income, redundancy, benefit delays and domestic abuse for example. Each food parcel contains three days' supplies of non-perishable foodstuffs (such as tinned meat, vegetables and fruit, cereal, pasta tea/coffee), basic toiletries and household cleaning products.

Covid 19 has resulted in increased demand for food with South East issuing almost 2150 food parcels to adults and 1480 to children between April 2020 and July 2021, representing over 2,200kgs of food.



Throughout the year the Foodbank benefits from the Congregation's very kind donations, but on Harvest Sunday we are hoping that an extremely large effort, by us all, will produce an extremely large amount of goods that are always urgently required for those needing help.

Items that will be greatly appreciated by the recipients should be non-perishable foods and toiletries. A table will be set up to display the donations and we hope that it will be groaning under the weight by the time all the goods have been collected. As a guide to what is most popular the following is a short list:

- Canned Foods: Meats, Spam, corned beef, ham etc., tuna and salmon, soups, stews, chilli, and sauces in bottles (tomato, brown and salad cream and mayonnaise), pies (Fray Bentos for example), tinned vegetables (beans, carrots, peas etc), fruit, rice pudding and custard
- Dried Goods: Tea bags, instant coffee and drinking chocolate
- Grains, rice, packaged pasta (macaroni, spaghetti), noodles
- Potato crisps
- Peanut butter, jams and marmalade (bought, not homemade!)
- Diluting juices and cartons of fruit juice
- Biscuits including sweet and savoury varieties
- Cereals (Corn Flakes etc)
- Sponge puddings
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, [but ONLY new ones!], tampons and sanitary pads and toilet rolls
- Washing up liquid
- All-purpose cleaning cloths

We hope that this will help you select some nice things for the people who most need these items.

Bring whatever you wish to donate to the Church on the morning of the Harvest Service (26 September 2021) and your item(s) will be added to the display. In advance of what we believe will be a very successful response, we thank you.

Please be mindful that, if donating foodstuffs, the items must still be "in date". If anyone would prefer to make a financial contribution to enable the Foodbank to make its own purchases, please send a cheque (made payable to Blythswood Care – South East Edinburgh Foodbank) to Blythswood Care, Highland Deephaven, Evanton, Ross-shire, IV16 9XJ. If you would like an acknowledgement of your donation, please include your e mail address.



Fiona Stewart and David Calder



Painting: *The People of the Way*, by I.D. Campbell

# Church and Society: Moving Forward?

2021 AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES • SUNDAYS, 7PM



Fairmilehead  
Parish Church



5 SEPT – MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

The Very Rev.  
**Dr John Chalmers**

Convener of the Assembly Trustees

The shape of the Church to come  
in a time of transition



19 SEPT – GREENBANK PARISH CHURCH

**Prof. Helen Bond**

Professor of Christian Origins and New  
Testament, University of Edinburgh

What Jesus and the first Christians  
thought about faith and community  
and what it could teach us for today



12 SEPT – GREENBANK PARISH CHURCH

The Rev. **Liz Henderson**

Richmond Craigmillar Church

Lessons learned from the pandemic  
and how it affected the parish and  
ministry in Craigmillar



26 SEPT – MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

The Very Rev.  
**Albert Bogle**

Pioneer Minister of Sanctuary First

What the evolution of an online church  
and community means for the future

Livestream at [morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](http://morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) on 5th & 26th September  
or [greenbankchurch.org](http://greenbankchurch.org) on 12th & 19th September

To attend in person, you must reserve your place in advance  
email: [office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) or call: **0131 447 6745**

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## A CONCERT BY THE CHOIR OF EMMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

The concerts in July, with the choir of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, were enjoyed by everyone who attended. It was lovely to hear such beautiful voices filling our lovely sanctuary and the choir themselves commented more than once on what a warm welcome they had experienced, what a lovely church to be singing in and simply how great to be performing to a live audience.

This last comment was to prove even more poignant when the rest of the tour was sadly cancelled when one member of the choir contracted covid, thankfully symptom free, so our two concerts were in fact the only ones that went ahead.

A link to the recording of the slightly shorter, dementia friendly concert was sent to the three care homes within our parish so that they too could enjoy listening to works as varied as Tallis' seven-voice anthem *Loquebantur variis linguis* and Peter Foggitt's own arrangement of the complete set of songs from *The Sound of Music* – a rare treat for us all!



The concerts were led by the Director of Chapel Music, Peter Foggitt.

## EDINBURGH FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

The Edinburgh Friendship Centre is part of the National Friendship Centre Federation. The Edinburgh Centre was founded in 1989 with a membership of 12. At our AGM in 2019 we registered 96 members. Our main aim is friendship for retired men and women, with meetings on the second Friday of each month, when we invite a speaker. Each month we organise a coffee morning in a city hotel, lunches, outings and walks. On Friday 8 October we are moving our venue to MPC Braid Hall. Listed are the events for October, November, December. A warm welcome awaits you if you would care to join us. These meetings start at 2pm.

8 October – Kenny Williamson “Old Leith & Edinburgh Trams”

12 November – Roy Johnston “Down Memory Lane – TV programmes we used to watch”

10 December – Christmas Afternoon Tea

*Amelia Maclagan, Vice Chair and Secretary*

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## FLOWER COMMITTEE - WE'RE BACK!

Real flowers will return to the Church with effect from 5 September 2021.

		Donated by	Arranged by
September	5	Fiona Watt	Irene Wilson
	12	Gretta Miller	Eleanor Watt
	19	Moira Clark	Joan Burnet/ Val Mannings
	26	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	Flower Committee
October	3	Michael Hunter	Ruth Henderson



Over the coming months, you will notice changes in the flowers in church. At a recent meeting of the Committee it was noted that none of us are getting any younger, and some members are experiencing difficulties working on the pedestals which we used prior to lockdown. Going forward, we will be using a variety of pedestals, vases and bowls to display the flowers. Each flower lady will choose her own style of arrangement, one with which she is comfortable, making it a happy and enjoyable experience.

I know many people may have been put off joining us in the past because of the need to arrange the flowers in a pedestal, but I'm sure that more of you may be more confident of displaying flowers in vases. As our numbers dwindle, there may come a time when we are only able to have silk flowers in church on a regular basis but we haven't quite reached that stage yet and a few more willing hands would mean we can carry on with real flowers for longer.

If you are interested, please speak to myself or any of the people taking down the flowers on a Sunday after the service. Male members of the congregation with a love of flowers are also welcome – we would happily become Flower People as opposed to Flower Ladies.

Irene Wilson. Convener - Flower Committee



### ROLL CHANGES

Please welcome our newest member, Alexandra Elizabeth Page who was baptised on 25 July 2021.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Robert Muat, who died at the end of February

Keith Bailey, who died on 11 June 2021

Mrs Corine Cameron, who died on 15 July 2021

And our former church officer, Tommy Batchelor, whose death we heard of in early June.

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## FROM OUR PROBATIONER MINISTER

When this edition of the magazine reaches you, I will have been in Morningside Parish Church for more than a year. It is hard to believe the time has gone by so quickly, and it certainly hasn't been what I expected. This past year, however, has been one of the most rewarding of my life. I have done things, met people, and had experiences that I will hold with me forever. The nature of my position, though, as a Probationer Minister, means that my time with you is limited. That time, as you may know is drawing to a close (but not for a few months yet!). At the moment I am in the process of applying for my first charge; a strange, daunting, yet positive, experience.

There are few times in life when we have an opportunity to truly stop and think about what we are doing and what we want to do, where we are and where we want to be. To stop and prayerfully ask, with minds as open as we can get them: where, what, and who does God want me to be? Because these are all part of the consideration. Looking for a parish to go to as their minister is part job search, part house hunting, and part speed dating. There are so many moving parts, so many factors to consider, and this is magnified by the impact of Covid-19 on all our churches over the past year and a half.

It is difficult in the perfect circumstances to choose (and be chosen by) a workplace, a home, and a community all at once, but as we emerge from lockdown it is even more so. We do not know what our communities and our churches are going to look like, we don't know who will come back in person and who will remain online. We won't know the true impact of Covid-19 on our Church, our community, and our country for some time to come. This may be a daunting prospect, but it is also one that excites me. I truly believe that we have an opportunity to think again, to take stock and to consider, where, what, and who does God want all of us to be.

This is the challenge and the opportunity for all churches over the next months and years. It will be wonderful to return to some sort of normality over the next few months here at Morningside, and wherever I end up afterwards, but I hope and pray that while we move back towards the kinds of interactions and events that we all love, we will also move forward, towards a future that embraces the change that has been a fundamental part of the church throughout its existence.

Conor Fegan



### LIFE & WORK

The magazine of the Church of Scotland is over 140 years old. To encourage new subscribers, there is a special promotion which offers an annual print subscription of £30, rather than the normal £36. This offer can be purchased at [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe) using the promotion code LWS2021. Also available is an annual digital subscription at £13.99, which can be purchased at <https://pktmags.com/lwspromo>.

Both promotions are valid until 30th September 2021.

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## OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Material for the October issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 17 September 2021** and it will be available by Sunday 3 October. While restrictions on church opening continue, please email your contributions to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).

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### *From An Arundel Tomb Philip Larkin*

Side by side, their faces blurred,  
The earl and countess lie in stone,  
Their proper habits vaguely shown  
As jointed armour, stiffened pleat,  
And that faint hint of the absurd –  
The little dogs under their feet.

Such plainness of the pre-baroque  
Hardly involves the eye, until  
It meets his left-hand gauntlet, still  
Clasped empty in the other; and  
One sees, with a sharp tender shock,  
His hand withdrawn, holding her hand...

...Now helpless in the hollow of  
An unarmorial age, a trough  
Of smoke in slow suspended skeins  
Above their scrap of history,  
Only an attitude remains:

Time has transfigured them into  
Untruth. The stone fidelity  
They hardly meant has come to be  
Their final blazon, and to prove  
Our almost-instinct almost true:  
What will survive of us is love



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Join us for worship in Church in person at 10.30am each Sunday 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)