



Magazine

No. 168 November 2021

Dear Friends

As I write, I'm just over halfway through the visit of Lord James Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly, to the Presbytery of Edinburgh. It's been a great experience to visit different Church and city organisations, venues and individuals. We know that there are many places where the Church struggles, and the impending reorganisation of the structures of the Church across the country, and here in Edinburgh, are giving causes for anxiety as the future is unclear.

Nevertheless, as Paul said to the New Testament early Christians in Lystra, "...yet (God) did not leave Himself without witness..."

We saw work going on in strong and struggling churches; we met candidates for the ministry eager to get on with their training; we visited the Greyfriars Charteris project at the former Kirk o'Field church where the church is setting up a new centre for community and faith projects. In the Sheriff Courts a Listening Service, which is supported by churches and others, gives time to those in the legal processes; in chaplaincies in universities, hospitals, schools, HMP Edinburgh and Edinburgh airport a gentle Christian witness of welcome, helpfulness and kindness is being exercised.

Photo: Church of Scotland

The face of the Church may be evolving, but the faith we share and the work that we have always done continues.

People from all walks of life serving their Church, serving their community, and, in this season of Remembrance, serving their country. Service is the antithesis of selfishness. Service can go to the point of sacrifice, and whether this is in time of conflict, or in time of peace, the notion of sacrifice continues to play a part in the world



today. It is hard not to think of the sacrifices made in these last months by so many, which continue to be made, as the pandemic rolls on.

We hear much of phrases like, 'the new normal', or, 'building back better'. In time of conflict, and in time of peace, one of the roles people of faith have

is to take stock of the world and community around them. What needs to continue, what needs to end; what needs to adapt, what needs to transform; what needs to be laid down, what needs to be picked up?

In the season of remembering, there will be looking back, but may there also be looking forward, as we anticipate and work towards what needs to happen next for our community, our world, and our Church.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

WORSHIP MATTERS

Sunday Services: For the time being we continue to wear masks and observe a 1m social distancing at the 9.30am and 10.30am service. We keep the matter under review in line with Church of Scotland and Scottish Government guidelines.

Remembering Service, Sunday 7 November, 3pm

These last months have been very difficult in so many ways, but particularly for those who have had to deal with a bereavement. Our Church has held different services like the Blue Christmas one, and a Remembering Service on the Sunday after Easter. For obvious reasons we've not been able to hold these for some time.

On Sunday 7 November, at 3pm in the Church, there will be a special Remembering Service for everyone who has had a bereavement and not been able to have a service at church, who has had to cope with severe restrictions on attendances at funeral services, or who in some way has found these months of loss and sadness particularly difficult to bear. Others will have had anniversaries of bereavements that they were not able to commemorate in the way they would have liked.

Our Remembering Service is open to everyone in the Church and in the wider community who would like to come and sit quietly at this simple, reflective service, which will last for around half an hour. During the service there will be a prayer where the first names only of those who have died since our last Remembering services will be read out, and if you have someone you would like to have mentioned in this way, please let the Minister know. Just the first name please! There will also be an opportunity to write names on stars and attach them to our Remembering tree.

Please let friends, neighbours and family know that the service is taking place, and invite them to attend if they would like. We hope to serve tea and coffee after the service.

Remembrance Sunday, 14 November at 10.45am

There will be no 9.30am service on that day.



December Communion

The Minister and Kirk Session are keeping an eye on any changes made by the Scottish Government and the national Church of Scotland in relation to communion services. The Session took the view some months ago that until we are able to share the elements of bread and wine in the way we are accustomed to doing, we would not want to arrange a communion service. An online service was recorded, and, of course, the Minister is willing to take home communion to any who might wish it.

In relation to a regular communion, we await further developments!

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers for the coming month are as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
November	7	Ian Hastie	Irene Wilson
	14	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Ruth Henderson
	21	Penny Graham	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	28	Moir Clark	Irene Wilson
December	5	Evelyn & George McHollan	Marjory Watson



The new flower list for 2022 is now available on the vestibule noticeboard. If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date. The cost remains at £45. Cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund' or payment can be made by bank transfer if preferred. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes or advise me if you have registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be given to a member of the Committee, put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office clearly marked for the Flower Fund. Please contact me direct on 0131 449 2866; e-mail: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com if you require details to make a bank transfer.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

ANGELS OF HOPE

You all enjoyed the knitted Easter Eggs hung on our cherry tree in the Church grounds last Easter, didn't you? We are planning a similar project for Christmas - Angels of Hope. Angels are God's messengers and on the first Christmas they spread the news of hope and joy about Jesus' birth. With Covid-19 affecting so many people's lives, we need a reminder of hope. This is an intergenerational project - please help by knitting angels for us so we can hand them out the week leading up to Christmas - there is a pattern available on the Welcome Desk. Please help



us, take one, follow the instructions and knit as many as you can.

Many thanks



Rona McLaren

OCTOBER KIRK SESSION

From its Zoom meeting in October:

- The congregation and community organisations continue to emerge from lockdown. There has been a significant increase in hall users returning, and it has been good to see and hear activity happening around our building again. We remain greatly indebted to our church staff who continue to work hard to keep our buildings safe, welcoming, clean and adaptable.
- The Outreach Committee reported that it had been a difficult time for their fund-raising work and, with regret, noted it would not be possible to hold any of our regular fund-raisers for the rest of this year. However, one exception will be the Edinburgh Clothing Store Christmas Clothing Drive which will be held on Sunday 28 November. It is also planned that the retiring offering from the Christmas Eve services will go to our three charities, the Edinburgh Clothing Store, the PAD project, and the work of our Church.
- Jacqui Lindsay, our Pastoral Assistant, reported that the Wednesday Coffee Morning will resume on Wednesday 10 November in the Braid Hall, from 10am – 11.30am. She also reported that our developing project around dementia will be called, 'Morningside Hope'.
- It was reported that over £3,000 was raised for the 'Morningside Hope' project on the Gift Days in September and October, and grateful thanks was expressed to all who gave so generously.
- The Kirk Session was delighted to hear the news that our probationer minister, Dr Conor Fegan, has been selected as sole nominee for Markinch Parish Church in Fife, and warmly congratulated him.

ROLL CHANGES



Please give a warm welcome to our new members:-

Neil and Dianne Barnes

David and Jennifer Rimer

Rosie Muirhead.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of
Revd John Cameron who died on 15 October 2021, and
Mrs Libby Porteous, who also died on 15 October 2021.

HARVEST APPEAL

If it were possible for me to do it, I would pat everyone involved, heartily on the back, for their enormous kindness in supporting our Harvest Appeal to support the South East Edinburgh Foodbank. Despite lower numbers able to attend Church, and despite the increase in demands for our patronage, our Congregation excelled itself and managed to accumulate a donation of a great variety of suitable produce to a total of 242.24 kg. That's nearly a quarter of a ton (which, incidentally, was the weight of our donation in 2019). I can only echo the heartfelt sentiments of the Foodbank Co-ordinator's letter of thanks to us in which our generosity was recognised as a huge help to the efforts of the Foodbank. As a result, their work in being able to offer balanced nutrition and comprehensive assistance to their users, who need much more than just the minimum levels of food to keep them going, carries on.

Many also contributed by making financial donations direct to the Foodbank, and these were equally recognised by the Co-ordinator as a massive help to their hard work in

keeping people in need fed, and supplied with the basics of sustenance.

Finally, thanks also to those who, during the pandemic, donated and personally delivered bags of food direct to the Foodbank at Southhouse.

It only remains for me to thank everyone for responding to the call for help in such a kind, thoughtful and generous fashion, particularly over the last two years. I also thank all those who helped take in the produce, stack it, store it, and those who transported it.

To one and all **THANK YOU.**

David Calder



EDINBURGH CLOTHING STORE UPDATE

Demand for the services of the Edinburgh Clothing Store is always affected by national events but, over this past year, international events have had a major influence in how and whom we serve. The pandemic and the fall of Afghanistan have certainly had an impact.

We were, of course required to close during the lockdown but in October 2020 we reopened. However, in order to protect both clients and helpers, we had to re-organise fundamentally how we worked. Reluctantly we considered that so long as restrictions were in place we could no longer see clients face to face but, to maintain a personal touch, we now make direct contact by telephone with the clients to ascertain their needs.

To achieve a safe system of working we had to install a remote entry system, and set up a system using iPads. On receiving a referral from a caring agency, we phone the clients at a pre-arranged time to find out what they need, their style and colour preferences and most importantly their true sizes! A time is then arranged for them to collect the bags containing their choice of clothes, bedding and towels. This seems to be working well although we hope to return to seeing the clients as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

Sadly once again the nation went into lockdown and we were unable to reopen after the Christmas break. In April we reopened and have been working hard since then.

In September, at short notice, we opened extra days to provide essential clothing for 59 Afghan refugees who had been brought to temporary accommodation in an Edinburgh hotel. Most had been left with only the clothes they were wearing when they fled and needed everything. It was a difficult operation as the "families" were not necessarily Mum, Dad and children but more often included the more extended family of nieces and nephews and/or grandchildren who didn't necessarily have the same surnames but understandably wanted to remain together. Interestingly but perhaps understandably there were more girls than boys in the extended family groups.

Two weeks later we were asked to clothe a further 16 refugees who had been brought to Edinburgh for their safety after demonstrations were held against them in another part of the UK. Again, we were able to help promptly by further extra days open. I would like to pay tribute to the Clothing Store volunteers who very willingly rose to meet this challenge while still continuing to offer the service to local people in need.

Over the past few weeks we have had the usual huge increase in requests which always occurs at this time of year. Sadly, with rising energy prices and inflation rising it is likely that our services will be required even more.

Without the wonderful support given by the members of the church it would not be possible to offer as much as we do. Therefore, as ever, a huge "thank you" to all who, by giving clothes and /or money help those who are in the most desperate need.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SERVICE – 28 NOVEMBER 2021

By popular demand the Gift Service is again to be for the Edinburgh Clothing Store (Charity No.SC039409). The congregation has been extremely generous in its donations to the Clothing Store at the last three Gift Services. The volunteers who run the Clothing Store have been incredibly grateful for the generosity which has been shown both by donations of new clothes for children and in donations of money.



This year, the items most needed are –

For Girls ages 2-12	For Boys ages 2-12
Winter jackets	Winter jackets
Hoodies	Hoodies
Sweatshirts	Sweatshirts
Long sleeved T shirts	Long sleeved T shirts
Skinny Jeans	Jeans
Leggings	Joggers
Tights	Boxers
Onesies	Onesies
Pyjamas	Pyjamas
Hats, Gloves & Scarves	Gloves

Please do NOT gift wrap your donations.

For two years we asked you to bring your donations to the Gift Service. Last year, because of the pandemic, Fiona Gossip very kindly offered to collect your donations from your homes. This year we are offering four options –

- Option 1 –on 28 November bring your gift to the table below the pulpit before the 10.30 am service.

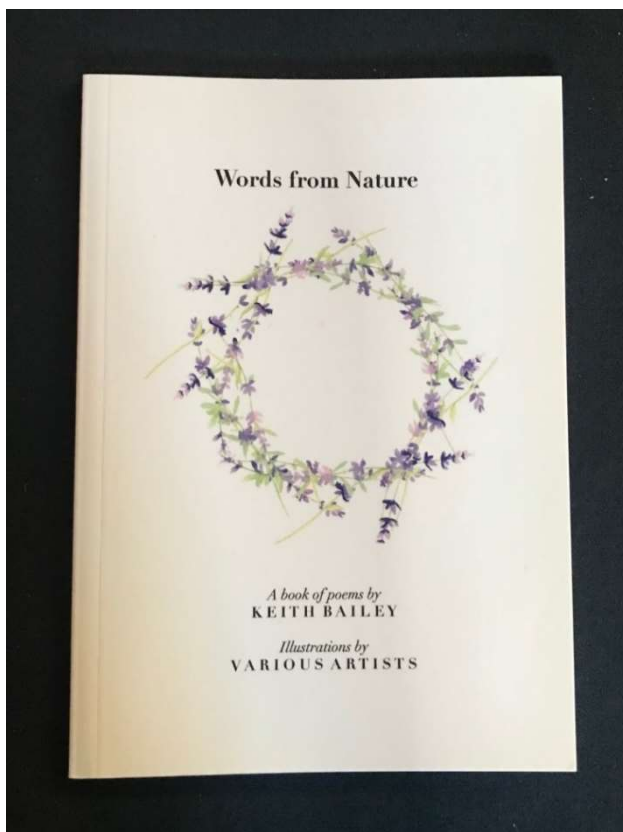
Edinburgh:Morningside Parish Church of Scotland: Scottish Charity No: SC034396

- Option 2- if you cannot come to church on 28 November but can on 21 November, bring your gift to the box beside the elders' pigeonholes.
- Option 3 – if you cannot come to church on either Sunday please contact Fiona Gossip who is once again very kindly willing to collect items from your home. She can be contacted on 07850 338 908 in November from Monday – Friday between 10.00am and 6.00pm or email her at fiona.gossip@outlook.com
- Option 4 – if you prefer not to go shopping, cash or cheque donations are also most 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 donations please include a note with your address and post code, state that you are a taxpayer and sign the note.

I cannot tell you how much difference your generosity has made in the past and how excited the children are to receive new clothes which they really need. This year more than ever, there is a great need.

Thank you in anticipation

Fiona Stimpson



WORDS FROM NATURE:

A BOOK OF POEMS BY KEITH BAILEY

Keith published this beautiful little book with the express desire that all the proceeds from its sale would go to the church. We only have some 15 copies left. Priced at £5, they are lovely to own or give as a gift. If you would like to purchase one, simply let me know and I will get a copy to you. As they say in the adverts: hurry while stocks last! 😊

Jacqui Lindsay

07834 364 628

MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN MORNINGSIDE



The next workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers are in the Cluny Hall 2pm – 4pm on the following dates:

Monday 1 November

Friday 19 November

Monday 6 December

Friday 17 December

If you would like any more information about this group, please contact Jacqui Lindsay on: 07834 364 628 or pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Or simply come along; you will be made most welcome.

TO THE EDITOR...

It was with sadness that I read in the October magazine that the Ladies' Group (latterly the Monday circle) was disbanding after 50 years.

That this should happen only a few years after the Guild closed means that there are no groups for the ladies of the congregation to meet for Christian fellowship and learning of things happening within the church and beyond.

Over the years, these organisations have done much to support the church in so many different ways, through fundraising and gifting of items to beautify or benefit our church buildings.

Just as important was the social aspect where the women of the congregation could meet together to enjoy fellowship.

A huge thank you is due to the leaders who have kept these organisations going for so many years.

We are going to miss you.



WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS RECOMMENCING

We've missed our Wednesday coffees so thankfully the plan is to restart on Wednesday 10 November in the Braid Hall as before, 10 – 11.30am.

If you are happy to put your name down on the rota to help once every few weeks, then please get in touch with Doreen Reekie on: 0131 664 8431 or by e mail at:

d.a.reekie@btinternet.com

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION

THE BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

SLA is taking part in The Big Give Christmas Challenge under the campaign name of "Giving Voice to Young People in India".

The Challenge is a bit like magic, in that match funding already available will double any donation you make. Our target is to match the £12,000 we have already received in pledges, to raise £24,000.

Donations must be made online via the Scottish Love in Action page on the Big Give website from 30th November to 7th December.



**EMPOWERING VULNERABLE
CHILDREN IN INDIA**

<https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a5690000tyfKkAAI>

Please put the date in your diary, or remember that this initiative begins on Giving Tuesday - St Andrew's Day - 30 November, after the consumer excesses of Black Friday and Cyber Monday!

We are raising funds to help marginalised and vulnerable girls and boys in India, working with one of our partners VOICE 4 Girls (who also work with adolescent boys). Because of COVID-19, there is a huge risk of a lost generation of girls forced into early marriage and girls and boys forced into risky low-paid labour. Schools in India were closed for more than a year. Although they have recently re opened attendance is worryingly low. During this time VOICE 4 Girls has been delivering its inspirational programmes to boys and girls at home via phones and WhatsApp, with the key message about the importance of returning to education when this is possible.

Please help us to reach our target and give young people in India a voice.

COP26

The Church of Scotland and COP26

How the Church and wider Christian community is engaging with the climate conference in Glasgow

‘The Most Important Thing We Can All Do is Talk’

The work and faith of Jen Morris, a co-ordinator of the YCCN climate relay

‘Our Faith Demands Our Commitment’

The Moderator emphasises the importance of speaking up for the vulnerable at COP26

‘We Love Our Neighbour – and We Demand Change’

In this month’s youth column, Rachel Walker highlights a global day of action on climate change

Remembrance

100 Years of Poppy Sales

Marking the centenary of the first Poppy Day

Freedom Isn’t Free

With Remembrance season approaching, the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers reflects on the withdrawal from Afghanistan and its impact on the injured and the families of those killed in the conflict

Remembrance Prayer

From the Moderator of the General Assembly

The Big Question

What Does It Mean to You to Wear a Poppy?

Plus

The first in a new series of studies by the Rev David Searle looking at the Lord’s Prayer

The Very Rev Albert Bogle urges us to let go of the familiar to create new memories of worship for future generations

John R Hume reflects on the history of New Laigh Kirk in Kilmarnock

News, letters, readers’ pictures, crosswords and registers

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DECEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the December issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 12 November 2021** and it will be available by Sunday 28 November. While restrictions on church opening continue, please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.

Autumn

by Rainer Maria Rilke

The leaves are falling, falling from afar
As though from distant gardens in the heavens.
They fall reluctantly and loathe to leave.

So, too, the Earth is falling through the night
Far from all stars down into solitude.

We are falling. See this hand? It falls
As all things do to heaven's laws.

Yet there is One, our Lord, Who holds
this falling
In His so infinitely tender hands.



["Let There Be Light - 27/52"](#) by [Phil Roeder](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

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Join us for worship in Church in person at 9.30am or 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