



Magazine

No. 170 February 2022

Dear Friends

You need a sense of humour at the moment. We don't know what's going to happen next. We don't know what we can rely on. And we don't know if we will get the 2022 we want. Someone said to me that this feels like the third attempt at 2020!

In truth, we never know what's going to happen next. The idea that life was predictable before the pandemic is a fantasy derived from dealing with perpetual uncertainty. All of us know unexpected diagnoses, disastrous turns of events, surprising opportunities: it's the stuff of life. The difference is, we're back in a period where it's an everyday occurrence for all of us. It's tiring, sometimes discouraging. But the real value of life emerges at least as much in adversity as in comfort.

Meanwhile most of us know what it feels like to discover a relationship, a long-term plan, a firmly held conviction, a job, isn't as secure as we thought it was.

Times like these make us separate out the things we really can rely on from the things

that aren't as locked-down as we thought they were. And that's a good thing to be clear about.

One thing I've learned beyond doubt in the last two years is that there's a huge number of people – far more than I'd imagined – who care about Morningside Parish Church as

much as I do. They've given and not counted the cost, they've fought and not heeded the wounds, they've laboured and not sought for rest. It's been the most inspiring experience – not to feel alone, but to realise how deeply so many people care about this community and all it stands for. And that's the heart of our faith.

Faith is God saying, 'I care about this as much as you do. I care about this world, this universe, your life as much as you do. And I'm going to be with you now, still, always.'

I want to thank you for the loyalty, long-suffering and love you've shown these last two years. You've shown me the wonder of what it means to be Christian. You've shown me the heart of God.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

INTRODUCING JAMIE SUTHERLAND

I am delighted to be joining the congregation at Morningside Parish Church as an enquirer for Ministry in the Church of Scotland. Although I am now local to the Morningside area, I am originally from Inverness where I grew up in the small rural parish of Croy & Dalcross. I moved to Edinburgh in 2011 to attend University. My home congregation is Greyfriars Kirk where I have been a member for four years. I have served as an elder at Greyfriars since March 2020, where I was ordained in a surreally near-normal service just before the announcement of the Covid-19 lockdown. As an elder, I have been particularly focused on discussions about the future of the Church of Scotland and how to re-imagine ministry and mission for a contemporary Scottish context. I represented Greyfriars in the Presbytery of Edinburgh Cluster Group discussions, working with our neighbouring congregations to identify our vision for future mission in the Edinburgh City Centre.

The period of discernment for me is the opportunity to challenge my call to serve God, to identify my skills and talents, and to discern how He might be asking me to serve. Embarking on this process naturally involves a mixture of excitement and anxiety, just as we see both hope and worry about our future as the Church of Scotland. However, I believe that if we are to adapt to our new



circumstances in a rapidly changing world, we must reflect deeply on Jesus's words in Matthew 6:27 where he asks, "can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?". This can only be achieved by looking beyond the institutions of The Kirk to focus directly on our fundamental calling; making Christ known by proclaiming the Gospel and transforming fractured lives through bold Christian action. I hope that being an enquirer will provide me with the opportunity to identify just how and where I can contribute to this, and to share experience with those who are already doing this in different places. Wherever my period of discernment takes me, I am excited to learn from the experience of mission and community in Morningside and to join with you in life and worship over the coming months.



FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers for the coming month are as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
January	9	Barry & Helen Hughes	Eleanor Watt
	16	Frances Bruce	Karen Keil
	23	Sheila Rowand	Ruth Henderson
	30	Euan Murray	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
February	6	Lorna Graham	Marjory Watson
	13	Doreen Reekie	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
	20	Aline Haggart	Joan Burnet
	27	Roger & Jane Prince	Irene Wilson

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome three new members to the Flower Committee - Karen Keil, Penny Graham and Liz Munro. More members are always welcome and if anyone is interested in joining us, please get in touch with any member of the Flower Committee.

The Flower List for 2022 is now complete. I would like to thank all those who have offered to donate money for the flowers over the coming year. The cost is £45 and cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes or advise me if you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole, given to me on a Sunday or sent to the church office clearly marked for my attention. If you would prefer to pay by bank transfer, please contact me direct for bank details for the Flower Fund on irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com; Tel: 449 2866.

Finally, you may have noticed over recent weeks that the flowers have been in vases on tables positioned at the side of the Communion Table while the normal flower pedestals are being refurbished. These tables have been made for us by Walter Thomson, in memory of his wife Margaret, a former member of the Flower Committee.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

HELP NEEDED!

The Car Rota, which helps to transport some of our elderly members to the church services, is desperately needing volunteers to help offer this extremely valuable service. You are likely to be asked to help one week in four. PVG clearance is necessary and the church will assist, if required.

Please get in touch if you feel that you could help in any way. We look forward to hearing from you.

Ewan and Sally Brown ewan.b@clara.co.uk

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 and we are aware at the time of writing that these are likely to change.

The Kirk Session will also keep under review if it will be possible to have a communion service in person on 6 March. If that is not possible, there will be another online communion recorded.

Lent 2022

This year's Lent Study may be in person, or online, dependent on where we are with restrictions. The theme will be **Living with the Psalms**, based on John Bell's recent book.

2 March	The perennial popularity of the Psalms
9 March	What is it about Psalm 23?
16 March	Jesus and the Psalms
23 March	Remembering in the Psalms

More details later, but your challenge, if you are thinking about taking part in the Lent Study this year, is to read the Book of Psalms in the month of February, and see how you get on!

DECEMBER KIRK SESSION

From its Zoom meeting in December:

Presbytery Reform: - The Moderator reported that, at the Presbytery meeting on 7 December, the Presbytery Planning Strategy Team (PPST) stated that it planned to issue the following day a report on the basis of its proposals.

The General Assembly 2021 agreed on a 40% reduction in ministry posts across the Church of Scotland. In the Presbytery of Edinburgh this means a reduction from 78 to 48.5. The Consultation Document is an introduction to the principles on which the PPST bases its decisions and is presented "in order to begin in depth conversations about city wide mission."

The proposals in essence will establish seven groups of congregations, to be known as "Mission Districts". The proposals will include a "Mission Narrative" for each Mission District and each Mission District will be required to work out from "grass root" discussion how they envisage their group will be able to achieve their mission objectives from their allocation of resources. Their responses will require to be considered at a Presbytery consultation on Saturday 15 January 2022. This will be a consultation meeting only at which "no decisions will be made".

At this stage, no proposals are being offered regarding church buildings and halls. The General Trustees are required to make an objective assessment of the condition and location of congregational buildings.

The Approved Mission Plan is required to be in place by 31 December 2022.

The Consultation Document includes –

Mission is to be at the heart of all we do - based on -

The 5 Marks of Mission – (1) to proclaim the Good News; (2) to teach, baptise and nurture new believers; (3) to respond to human need by loving service; (4) to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation; (5) to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Secondary Principles - (1) Each community will be served by a parish; (2) we will work Ecumenically; (3) we will have priority for the Poor; (4) the Whole People of God will be encouraged and called out to exercise their gifts; (5) there will be worshiping, witnessing and serving congregations within easy access of everyone in Edinburgh; (6) a mixed economy of existing Church structures and New Expressions of Faith will be encouraged; (7) each congregation must be financially viable and realistic; (8) buildings must be “well equipped spaces in the right places”.

Parishes & Mission Districts – “Congregations can no longer act in isolation but will work together, sharing resources and encouraging and supporting each other particularly where a disparity of wealth, resources and gifts exist.”

Parishes and Ecumenical working – it is expected that each Mission District will work ecumenically and collegially with other denominations for the good of the Kingdom.

Diversity of Posts – 48.5 posts will be nationally funded; some congregations can and do fund local posts; the Finance Committee is proposing to release funds from existing Mission Funds to fund up to two additional posts for the period of the plan.

New Missional Opportunities - a few congregations are being asked to plant new ecclesial communities in large housing developments being built on the edge of the city and others may wish to offer support.

Finance – the challenge is to ensure that pruning does not reduce the substantial contribution that Edinburgh makes to the wider work of the church. It is recognised that closing too many buildings leads to a reduction of membership and income. It is an expectation that the congregation exercise financial responsibility and each congregation must be financially viable and realistic.

Buildings - the nationally accepted wisdom is that there are too many buildings. However, the Mission Plan proposes that where there is a clear mission imperative, most buildings will be retained in some manner. The buildings which best serve the Church and the community will be “well equipped places in the right places”. Some buildings will require to be released.

Post Covid - there may be a call for new ways of engaging online with the city.

West Lothian – it is planned to work to identify the best ways to serve the new housing developments which are being built along the boundaries of both former Presbyteries.

Reviewable Charges and Tenure – implementation of the plan will mean some Reviewable Charges will of necessity be reviewed but there are also proposals which will affect ministers on Full Tenure.

Conclusion – For new parishes to be planted, some over-churched areas must be thinned out so that Presbytery can plan for new growth in new areas

The proposals directly affecting our Church:

MPC will be part of a Mission District on the South of Edinburgh in three parts –

1. A Union of Gracemount, Liberton, Liberton Northfield, Tron Kirk Gilmerton, and Moredun with two ministers and one Pioneer MDS (MDS = Ministry Development Staff)
2. Union of Morningside and Reid Memorial with one minister.
3. Union of Fairmilehead, Greenbank and Colinton Mains with two ministers.

It is suggested that MPC and Reid Memorial (RM) will be served by one minister and local staff as required. "Recent refurbishment at MPC has underlined the potential of buildings used wisely for hospitality, the hosting of local groups and the forging of relationships. Lesson learnt from this process, shared with the congregation of RM, can point the way to the best missional use of RM's buildings. The sale of RM's manse can provide funds to undertake this or related missional initiatives guided by good organisation and governance."

Reports - Stewardship & Finance – Chris McNeil, Treasurer reported that - he had received intimation of a legacy % of residue estimated as being around £5,000.

- the **financial outcome for 2021** was likely to produce a deficit of c£28k, a substantial reduction on the budgeted deficit. He suggested that the outcome can be attributed to the fact that congregational income had held up well and had benefitted from £5,300 donated on the National Giving Day (which would not be included in calculations for Ministry & Mission), £5,000 donated by the Friends of MPC to partially fund the choral scholars, £11,500 from legacies and £17,945 from receipts from Furlough payments.

The Treasurer had circulated a **detailed draft budget for 2022** with annotations explaining the entries. **Total income is** estimated to be £248,521 (2021 estimated to be £211,521). He drew attention to the increased budget from letting of £36k (2021 - £14,815) which had been severely affected by lockdown). It is hoped that letting will not be significantly affected by the impact of the new Covid variant. The income is also boosted by the Tor Grant of £10,980 for the Morningside Hope Project.

Expenditure was anticipated to be £316,521 (2021 - £270,100). He highlighted the principal variances as being a reduction of the contribution to the Ministries and Mission Fund from an anticipated £113,000 as a result of an application of funds by Presbytery to reduce it to £102,843; the increase in staff salaries to £101,321 (2021 - £85,732). Overall, the anticipated deficit is estimated as £68k (2021 - £58,806).

Session approved the budget and authorised the Treasurer to apply for funds held for MPC at 121 to cover the deficit and as necessary to facilitate cash flow.

Session recorded its thanks to the Treasurer and the Stewardship & Finance Committee for the production of the budget and indeed for their oversight of the church's financial affairs throughout the year.

Local Hero's Award - the Moderator reported that our Church had been presented by our local MP Ian Murray with this award made to an individual or organisation for their work in the community. He thanked Ian Murray, on behalf of the congregation, for the award and the congregation for the contribution they had made to achieving it. He planned to have it displayed in the entrance hall where it would be visible to the many users of our halls.



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members:

Hasan King, who was baptised and admitted as a new communicant on
28 November 2021

Ms Lottie Birrell and Ms Tilly Powell-Brown who were admitted as new
communicants on 28 November 2021

George Sandison, admitted by certificate of transference

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Gordon Kinloch, who died on 21 November 2021

Charlie Burnett, who died on 1 December 2021

Pat Riddell, who died on 27 December 2021

Jim Mathieson, who died on 15 January 2022

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT – 21 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH 2022.

Choose the world you want! Choose Fairtrade.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 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 in climate vulnerable countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Honduras.

As global trade changes in ways we could not have imagined two years ago, poverty will continue to be a key contributor to further environmental degradation and the inability for farmers to adapt to environmental shocks. The farmers behind some of our favourite foods need empowerment, fair value, fair prices, and fairer trading practices to resource the investment needed for mitigation, adaptation, diversification and resilience in the face of the climate crisis.

As valued members of the Fairtrade movement, thousands of Fairtrade towns, villages, schools and churches have already committed to using Fairtrade products, including tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits, and to supporting Fairtrade as a key solution for making trade fairer for those in lower-income countries. Our church here in Morningside Parish re-committed to being a Fairtrade Church in 2021.

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 once again enjoying Fairtrade coffee together after worship!

MAKE YOUR MARK AT MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH – LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Wills and legacies

Your Will allows you to protect your family and friends and support a charity at a level which may not have been possible during your lifetime. For non-profit organisations such as Morningside Parish Church, these gifts can be transformational.

Become part of something truly lasting

Leaving Morningside Parish Church a legacy is to join generations of people who care about Morningside Parish Church and the communities it serves. Your gift can provide you and those closest to you with the satisfaction and joy that comes from charitable giving.

Enhancing our Church

Legacies, large or small, are vital to the future. Without legacies, many aspects of the Church's daily life, from major restoration works to development projects which enhance people's enjoyment of the Church, would not be possible.

Over the years, many aspects of our Church life have been supported by legacies. A legacy to the Friends of Morningside has allowed the Friends to extend the support for our choral scholars. A legacy from Gordon Hendry allowed us to enhance our audio and Wi-Fi, enabling us to broadcast services through the pandemic. Over the years, legacies have funded stained glass windows, and established various dedicated funds to support music, flowers, and fabric. If there is something you particularly want to support or enhance in our church or its outreach because it's important to you, a legacy could be the way to make a lasting difference.

An example of what a legacy can do for the Church is the St Andrew Room.

St Andrew Room | Mary Cowan

Mary was a much-loved member of Morningside Parish Church who left a generous legacy to enhance our Church.

This allowed us to create the St Andrew room out of the north transept, with its stunning roof, that gives us a wonderful space for wedding registrations, committee meetings and training and serves as a vestry. Mary's love for the Church lives on in this wonderful facility.



Sound financial planning

Leaving a charitable gift in your Will is an astute means of tax planning for you and your family.

Inheritance Tax (IHT) is currently at 40%. If your estate is over a certain threshold, £0.40 of every £1 could potentially be 'lost' in tax. However a legacy to a charity is automatically free of IHT. This could take the form of money, shares, a work of art, land or simply what remains when all gifts have been made.

If you leave 10% or more of your net estate to a charity, IHT overall is reduced to 36%. That means family may face a substantially smaller tax liability.

How to leave a legacy or Any Questions?

For more information about legacies, including suggested wording, please contact Euan Murray by email at euamurray@me.com or call 07702 092174

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 4 MARCH 2022

The WDP theme for 2022 is: "I know the plans I have for you".

The service has been written by women of England, Wales and N. Ireland.



The Scottish WDP Committee will again offer "Days of Prayer" from 23 February. These short reflections will be posted on the [wdpscotland](http://wdpscotland.org.uk) website and Facebook page.

Some services in church will be held on 4 March. For our area we hope there will be a service at St Peter's RC Church, in Falcon Avenue at 10.30 am, but look out for invitations during February.

The **Scottish Committee will again be inviting those who have access to join them in a live WDP service (probably at 2pm), hosted on Zoom.** A recording will be 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 the website and Facebook page of World Day of Prayer Scotland.



Morningside Hope

This is the umbrella name that we are using for the projects being made possible by the generous grant received from TOR Christian Foundation and the matched funding from the church itself. We got off to a good start in January despite the restrictions and it has been lovely to welcome back old friends along with some new ones.

Upcoming events over the next couple of months will be:

MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN MORNINGSIDE workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers

Held in the Cluny Hall 2- 4pm

February: Monday 7 & Friday 25

March: Monday 7 & Friday 25



February: 14 & 28

GENTLE EXERCISE TO MUSIC for those with dementia and their carers/partners.

The class itself will last 40-45 minutes, followed by tea, coffee and the chance to chat.

Held on Mondays in the Cluny Hall 2-4pm

March: 14 & 28

GAMES AFTERNOON: open to **everyone**, these afternoons are a chance to meet up with friends old and new, play our favourite board games, jigsaws etc. and have a coffee and a catch up.

Held once a month on a Wednesday afternoon 2-4pm

February 23

March 23

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSES

An Introduction: running over two evenings, Tuesdays 15 and 22 March

Caring for one another is the responsibility of each and every one of us and so we are offering a brief introduction to Pastoral Skills running from 6 –9.30pm each evening, hopefully starting with a light supper.

There is a maximum of 16 places on the course **and it is open to anyone** interested in finding out a bit more about pastoral care, without the necessity of making any commitment, beyond the course itself.

The course will look at topics such as:

- Communication & listening skills
- Self-awareness & self-care
- Boundaries and why they matter
- Dementia /or bereavement (dependant on those attending)

The training will be hands on/experiential in nature and the aim, to make it an enjoyable experience for those attending. There is no charge for the training and CPD certificates will be provided.

Pastoral Skills Course, Part 2: running over two evenings, Tuesdays 27 September. & 4 October.

Open to those who have completed the introduction course above and want to develop their skills and knowledge.

Pastoral Training for Young People parts 1 & 2: aimed at those 15+, the course will be similar to the above.

Tuesdays: 8 & 15 February and 8 & 15 March 1.15 – 3.45pm

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

Open to everyone, our first concert this year will be a piano recital given by Peter Foggitt, on Saturday 26 March at 2pm followed by teas and coffees.

You can check out Peter at: www.peterfoggitt.com

ADDITIONAL CONCERT:

Peter has kindly agreed to offer a second recital to help raise funds for Morningside HOPE on the following evening, Sunday 27 March at 7pm.

Entry to both concerts is by donation.

Interested in attending? Please come along to any of the above, you will be made most welcome.

Interested in volunteering? If you would like to help with any of these activities please get in touch, we're going to need a lot of willing hands to enable this exciting project to happen.

Or simply **interested in finding out a little bit more**, just contact our Pastoral Assistant Jacqui Lindsay on: 07834 364 628 or e mail:

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Teas and coffees and also the possibility of a glass of wine on the evening of the concert will all be covid restriction dependent.



MARCH MAGAZINE

Material for the March issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 18 February 2022** and it will be available by Sunday 6 March. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.

THE CALL *Anonymous, C17th*

My blood was red
For thee was shed,
Come home again, come home again;
My own sweet heart, come home again!
You've gone astray
Out of your way,
Come home again, come home again!

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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