



Magazine

No. 172 April 2022

Dear Friends

Easter, like Christmas, requires joy to be celebrated fully and properly. Joy that God continues to be with the people of the world. Joy that good gifts of life and laughter have been given. Joy that we are reassured by God's loving-kindness.

And yet ...

I am not the only person sensing across the church, community, country and world a weariness and a heaviness of spirit. The clinical effects of Covid have been serious, but the psychological effect of lockdown has had, is having and will continue to have a disconcerting effect on our energy, enthusiasm and vision for some time to come.

Emerging from this time, and now into the war in Ukraine, on top of economic concerns which will affect us all is not something to be swept aside easily or lightly.

And yet ...

A few years ago, I read a book by an American evangelical preacher. The book was called, "It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'..." In truth I don't remember much about the book other than the title. It always struck me as being unrelentingly hopeful. It

always struck me as being a snapshot of the difficult day of Good Friday, with Easter not yet there, but tantalisingly on the horizon.

As Christians we know that Good Friday was not the last word in the story of Jesus. Easter is the last word, or rather Easter is the open

sentence that continues the story of Jesus. It is the faith equivalent of, "to be continued ..." It's those three dots . . .

They keep you holding on, they keep you going, they keep you wondering, they keep you wishing, they keep you hoping, and the keep you believing.

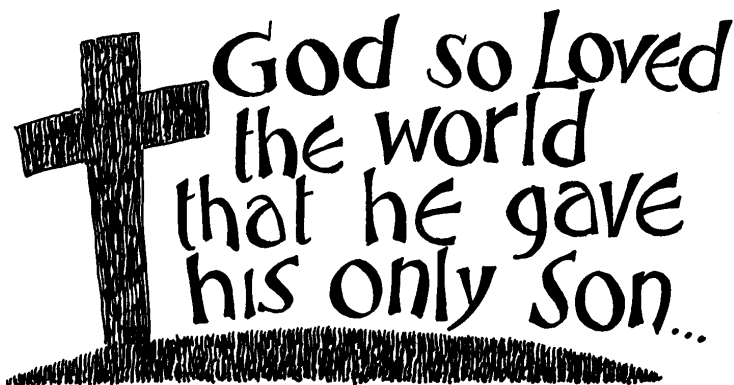
None of us can predict how the next weeks will turn out, let alone the next year. Yet in this awful time, Easter will take place. Persistent. Undeniable. Irrepressible. Steady. Enough.

However you are at this time, be assured of the unshakeable love of God in Jesus, and the unquenchable optimism of the Spirit of Jesus, that will get us through, one step at a time, together.

It may feel like an endless Good Friday, but Easter Sunday's comin'

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning





HOLY WEEK 11 – 16 APRIL, 7.30PM

This year we will be sharing our Holy Week services with our neighbours at Greenbank Parish Church. The theme for the week will be 'The Places of Holy Week'. On Maundy Thursday, 14 April, we will share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Good Friday is on 15 April and the choirs of the two churches will take part in the service.

The services will be streamed online, available through the Greenbank Parish Church website <https://www.greenbankchurch.org/>

Holy Saturday is on 16 April, and the service of music and words will be held in our Church at 7.30pm. It is a thoughtful service as we stand poised between the bleakness of Good Friday and the positivity of Easter's hope.

Easter Day is on 17 April. There is just the one service at 10.30am (no 9.30am service on this day). Do come and join us to celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour.

Choral Evensong

Our choir is providing a service of Choral Evensong at 6.30pm on Sunday 24 April. More details elsewhere in the magazine as well as in the intimations nearer the time.

WORSHIP MATTERS

Hopefully by the time you are reading this the regulations around services and events at Church will have changed. Please check the church website for the most up-to-date information. From 21 March:

- **the need to record attendance at events will be lifted**
- **face coverings will still be required at least until the beginning of April**
- **we continue with physical distancing in Church until further notice, at both the 9.30 and 10.30 services.**
- **we will continue to have the entire service printed in the order of service. This has gone down well in recent months, and also means that those watching online will be able to follow the order of service as it appears on the church website**
- **the offering will continue to be taken at the door (plates available before and after the service), but also please remember the electronic device you can 'tap' in the vestibule to make a one-off offering**
- **four at a table for coffee in the St Matthew Hall (for the moment)**
- **a return of the Jam and Baking stall at the end of April (we hope)**

MARCH KIRK SESSION

From its Zoom meeting in March

- **Congregational Annual Report and Accounts** - the Treasurer, Chris McNeil, with Anne Campbell from Stripe Accountants, presented the annual report and accounts for the Kirk Session to approve. After what has been a challenging year, congregational giving has kept up well, but a particular effort will be needed to deal with the challenges presented by increases in energy bills in 2022, as well as the rise in inflation. We hope to hold a congregational meeting in the next few months where the report and accounts will be available to the congregation. The Kirk Session approved the report and accounts, and Chris McNeil and Anne Campbell, were warmly thanked for their much valued work.
- **Emerging from Lockdown** – as mentioned elsewhere, we hope that most of the restrictions around church services and events at church will be lifted or made optional before long.
- **Presbytery Planning Proposals** – the Kirk Session's response to the proposals made in the Presbytery Planning was discussed. It was appreciated that the macro picture across Edinburgh and West Lothian had to be taken into account to balance a multitude of considerations facing the Church of Scotland nationally. This in the light of last year's General Assembly decision to reduce ministries by 40% by 2025. Morningside Parish Church has undergone five unions in the last 60 years and knows something about the reality of the pain and the opportunity that dealing with unions, and the disposal of buildings, and the imaginative use of monies raised by sales, can bring. We appreciate that for other churches who haven't faced unions the choices will be difficult. Our response has tried to be unflinchingly honest and relentlessly gracious.

In relation to the proposed union with Reid Memorial – although there has been no historic link between our two churches, whilst our history of bringing people together in welcome and hospitality is clearly evidenced, there was no appetite to take on the running of another large building. The sale of the Reid buildings in any newly formed parish could create a special fund to support and enhance pastoral and mission opportunities, and might also be used to provide transport around the larger parish. However, we are sensitive that this proposal would be a difficult one for the Reid congregation. Some consideration was given to a union or working together between Morningside and Greenbank (where we have longer links). This would also raise opportunities as well as challenges in the sharing of staff and resources, and also the question of maintaining two separate buildings would still arise. It was recognised that essential further and detailed conversation would need to take place with all congregations as we seek to define a sustainable vision for the future.

- **Property** – pending work on the Fire and Security systems at the Church and manse were discussed and approved, to bring the systems up to date and to meet new Government requirements. Work on the south aisle/Braid Hall corridor was notified, with costs being sought to carry out the necessary repair work.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers for the coming month are as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
April	3	Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson
	10	Christine Johnston	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
	17	EASTER	Flower Committee
	24	Joan Burnet	Joan Burnet
May	1	Kerry Elgey	Irene Wilson & Eleanor Watt



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.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee



JAM AND BAKING

We are resuming this stall - on the last Sunday of every month - on 24 April.

All arrangements are the same as they were with one new legal requirement: **ingredients must be stated on the item.**

All items are welcome except anything with cream. Items should be wrapped. Pricing is done by the stall holder though the donor might want to give information as to the cost of the

ingredients. Selling will be done during coffee after the 10.30 service so items for sale should be brought to the St Mathews Hall in advance of that service.

The stall used to raise a useful sum that covered the expenses of the Communication committee who run this and we hope we can tap in to the same happy involvement from bakers and buyers as we previously had.

Issie Paterson

MUSIC NOTES

Greenbank Parish Church hosts the usual combined Holy Week services this year, and that at 7.30pm. on Good Friday might be particularly worth noting: it is to comprise largely of music from Handel's "Messiah", Part II (singularly apt, of course, for the season), sung by the combined choirs of Greenbank and Morningside, under the direction of Greenbank's Dr Alberto Massimo, with Morley Whitehead providing the orchestral accompaniments on the organ. The tenor solos will be taken by Fraser, our very fine tenor Choral Scholar at Morningside Parish Church.



Mention of Choral Scholars brings me on to Sunday 24 April (Low Sunday). We are lucky enough just now to have the services of no fewer than eight Choral Scholars, and - as I am sure you will agree - the choir is making a particularly fine sound at the moment. (And a bonus: they are all such nice people!) There are certain pieces which I (and the choir) should dearly like to sing, but which it would be difficult to find a place for in our usual morning service. Accordingly, we propose to sing a CHORAL EVENSONG at Morningside on Sunday, 24 April at 6.30pm. Please do come and support our singers in this most worthwhile endeavour - there will be music for the congregation to sing too(!)

M.W.



188TH GUIDES

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK, with over 320,000 members and 80,000 volunteers. We give girls and young women a space where they can be themselves, have fun, build brilliant friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and their communities.

We're looking for an adult volunteer to join our leadership team from summer 2022, to support our weekly meetings (during term time) on Friday evenings and occasional other events. This is an opportunity to work with girls aged 10-14 years as part of a team of adult and young leaders. Training and support are provided.

For more information, please contact us at guides188th@outlook.com - we would love to hear from you!



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members:

George Foxton

Marion McRae

Jennifer Veitch

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of:

Mrs Isabel Willis, who died on 5 March 2022

Alex Black, who died on 19 March 2022



Celebration of the life of Gordon Hendry

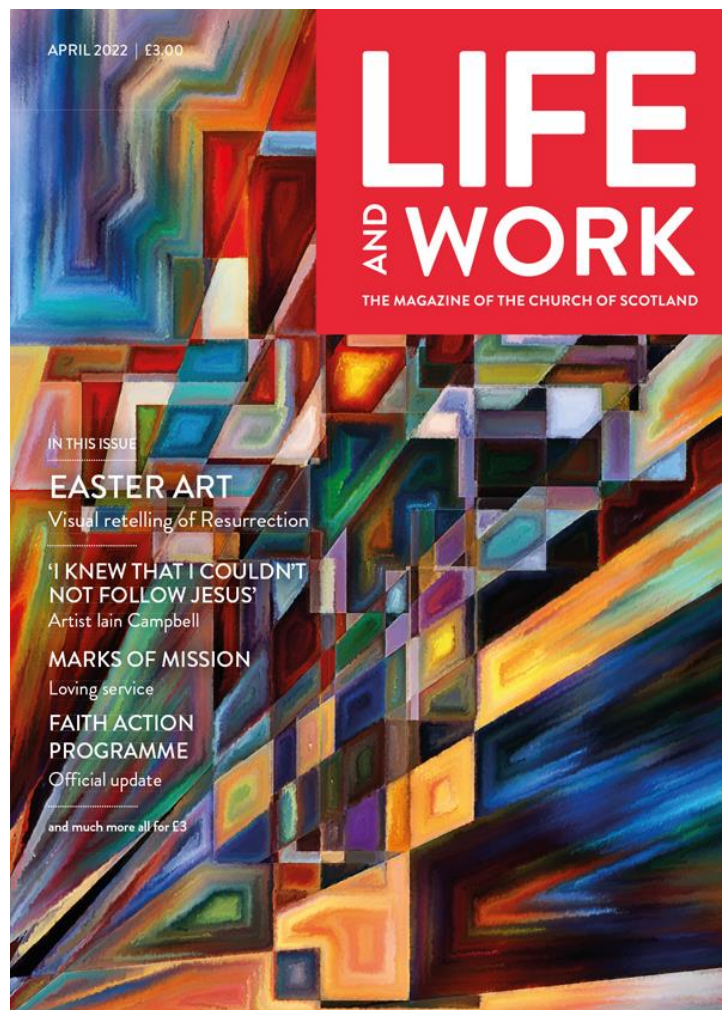
On Sunday 15th May at 12 noon
Morningside Parish Church EH10 6BQ
and followed by lunch from 1pm
The Charwood 47 Buckstone Terrace EH10 6QJ
We would love to meet up
RSVP for lunch numbers
Susan 07810836000 by 3rd May

LIFE AND WORK

To encourage new readers to Life & Work there is a promotional subscription offer, valid until 30 April, whereby twelve printed copies are available for £30 (a saving of £6). These copies will be sent direct to the subscriber's address – please enter the promotion code EAST22. An annual subscription for the digital edition is available at £14.99 (also a saving of £6) – in this instance no code is required so please select the introductory offer option. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of either of these offers should visit

www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe.

Subscribers to Life & Work support the vital and vibrant work of the Church of Scotland while keeping connected with the Christian community in Scotland, and further afield.



In the April issue:

Easter Art: Jackie Macadam talks to Christian artists about how the Resurrection story has been represented in art.

‘I Knew That I Couldn’t Not Follow Jesus’: Interview with artist Iain Campbell.

Marks of Mission: Loving Service: Continuing the series looking at the Marks of Mission, Thomas Baldwin speaks to the convener of CrossReach about how the Church responds to human need by loving service.

Faith in Action: An official monthly update for 2022 from the Faith Action Programme

Who Guards the Guards?: In his final column as Moderator, Lord Wallace pays tribute to the work of chaplains

Love, Grace and Transformation: The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers argues that in His execution and resurrection, Jesus is an archetype of redemption

Unnoticed Joy: The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the hidden moments of the Resurrection

Forgiving Others: Continuing the series on the Lord’s Prayer

Plus: News, letters, readers’ pictures, crosswords and registers

MAY MAGAZINE

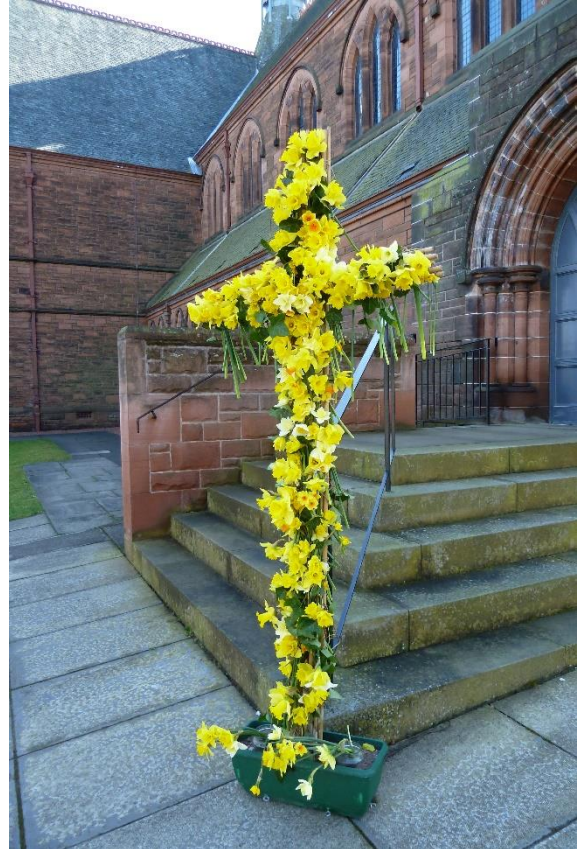
Material for the May issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 15 April 2022** and it will be available by Sunday 1 May. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.

Easter Wings

George Herbert

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:
With thee
O let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne:
And still with sicknesses and shame.
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.
With thee
Let me combine,
And feel thy victorie:
For, if I imp my wing on thine
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.



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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