



Magazine

No. 171 March 2022

Dear Friends

For our Lent online study series, we're going to be looking at the Psalms, and how they have woven themselves into the lives of so many Christians. For all that we sing them often, like Psalm 23 where the Lord is our shepherd, or Psalm 121 where we look for help when we lift up our eyes to the hills, or part of Psalm 24, "Ye gates", which we sing at communion, I

wonder how closely we have ever really looked at them and read them?

Is it because they are poetry and don't have the intellectual appeal of Paul's letters? Is it because they don't have the deceptive but

penetrating charm of Jesus' parables? Is it because they look such a rag-bag of shapes, sizes and subject matter that they seem to have no internal consistency? Is it because just as the history books in the Old Testament are sometimes dismissed because they are allegedly full of battles and killings, so the relatively few 'cursing' psalms discredit the other more positive texts?

John Bell's recent book on the Psalms will form the basis of our online Lent studies. He asks, "...if God is God, and the Scripture is

deep, we should not expect the intellect to be the only conduit to understanding. A God Whose word is fully appreciated only by those who have a high IQ is a small, exclusive God...I now believe emotion, experience and imagination are also tools by which we can discover a relationship between our lives and biblical texts."



When we become Christians we make a promise, amongst many, to read our Bibles. I often wonder how many do. It's not an easy book so we read with caution, and when we do not understand what we're reading, we should seek

help. That's what Ministers are for!

This Lent, have a go at the Psalms, those gritty short and long, comforting and challenging, abundantly clear and sometimes perplexing songs that emerged from an inquisitive, troubled, faithful community of faith, and were also the song book from which Jesus Himself sang. And if you can, come along to our online Lent study, with your questions!

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

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

WORSHIP MATTERS

10.30am Morning Worship – this service is now nearly back up to its full length, with the inclusion of four hymns, the usual prayers, the children’s talk and the choral introit and anthem. For the time being the offering will still be taken at the door. Masks are still to be worn at both the 9.30am and the 10.30am services.

The Kirk Session has decided that, with regret, it is not possible to hold a communion service in the way we would normally hold such a service. We keep the matter under review, and hope for June! There will be another online communion recorded in early March and made available on line.

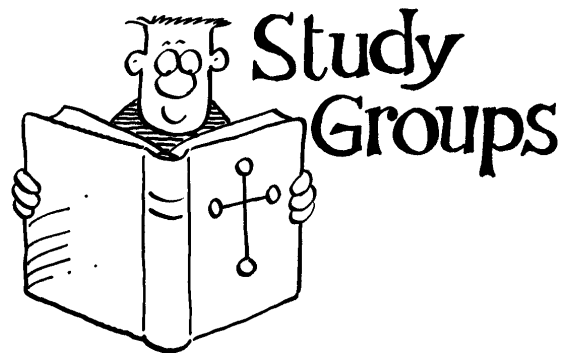
Online Lent Study 2022

The theme will be **Living with the Psalms**, based on John Bell’s recent book. The course will be online.

2 March	7.30pm	The perennial popularity of the Psalms – Psalm 100
3 March	10.30 am	Psalm 121, Psalm 51, Psalm 69, Psalm 122
9 March	7.30 pm	What is it about Psalm 23?
10 March	10.30am	
16 March	7.30pm	Jesus and the Psalms– Psalm 78, Psalm 118, Psalm 116
17 March	10.30am	Psalm 22
23 March	7.30 pm	Remembering in the Psalms - Psalm 25, Psalm 106
24 March	10.30am	Psalm 42, Psalm 143, Psalm 63

If you are thinking about taking part in the Lent Study this year, your challenge is to read the Book of Psalms and see how you get on! If you wish to take part, please contact the Minister for the Zoom link.

Derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk



THANK YOU!

Thanks are surely due to the small number of people who operate the cameras that allow the Morning Service into our homes every Sunday and arrange for it to be shown online. Those few should know that it is much appreciated by those not in church for whatever reason.

A BIG THANK YOU for your commitment. Please keep up the good work

M.G.

FEBRUARY KIRK SESSION

From its Zoom meeting in February

- **Emerging out of Lockdown** –The Moderator reported that numbers at worship were increasing although not yet at pre- pandemic levels. No longer having to book had helped increase numbers and indications are that when masks no longer need to be worn, that will bring a further increase. The kitchen is open but subject to a maximum of only three people in the kitchen at once and the essential requirement that all crockery and utensils are washed in the dishwasher and not simply rinsed under the tap.
- **Presbytery Planning Proposals** - The Moderator reported that, in the Presbytery's Consultation Document, a union is proposed between our church and Reid Memorial Church. This splits the former Cluster group which included our church, Greenbank and Fairmilehead which have a history of working together. All three churches are together in the same large Mission District – South - which was split into three sectors; (1) Morningside and Reid Memorial;(2) Greenbank, Fairmilehead and St John's Colinton Mains; and (3) Gracemount, Liberton, Liberton Northfield, Tron Kirk Gilmerton Moredun. Sector 3 has a history of working together but Reid Memorial and St John's Colinton Mains are new to the group.

It is clear that there will need to be more discussion with Reid Memorial and "due diligence" to establish the facts and figures and whether or not this is going to be a feasible way ahead. Alternatively, should we be considering the future of our existing established relationship with neighbours at Greenbank and Fairmilehead and possibly St John's Colinton Mains if their union proceeds as proposed. This could include taking a longer-term view as to the future and the possible requirements for church facilities in the area in the next 10 to 20 years.

- **Worship** - Douglas Paterson, Convenor, reported that the twists and turns which have characterised the hoped for road out of the pandemic have continued to affect the shape and style of services. The trend of events has in some respects proved helpful in allowing the restoration of aspects of worship highly valued by many and much missed over many months. Autumn saw the resumption of 9.30am services while Harvest Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day services saw good attendances. Especially welcome has been the return of singing to services (albeit with masks), the more so with the addition of the wonderfully musical resources of the rejuvenated choir to lead and support. Worship at Christmas threatened to be overshadowed by the added caution prompted by government advice to avoid unnecessary social mixing and it was undoubtedly a disappointment that the Watchnight Service had to be cancelled. However, the 'angels' themed All Age Service and the Lessons and Carols did go ahead and were truly inspiring.
- **Education** - Kenny Robertson, Convenor, reported that the focus of the Education Committee has, to the extent feasible, continued to be principally upon the Sunday Club (including the operation of the crèche) and adult education. The operation of Sunday Club had been severely impacted by the pandemic. The weekly Zoom meetings have now, however, transitioned back to a more normal Sunday Club experience for the children. The number of children attending hasn't generally recovered to pre-pandemic levels. This may be due to alternative arrangements being made on Sunday mornings, loss of habit of Church attendance, or the passage of time, where the attendance of some of the older

children may typically tail off in any event. Nevertheless, since the return to the Church building, the children have resumed the range of activities undertaken pre-pandemic, ably led by Norma and Rona, including supporting all-age services and Christmas services. In relation to the children's participation at the Services, they continue to feedback that they enjoy their more visible role and rather than having to cajole them to take part in readings and prayers, if anything they are keen to be involved as much as possible. We remain hugely indebted to Norma and Rona, who invest significant but typically unseen time and effort to ensure the Sunday Club remains relevant, fun and enjoyable for all the children.

- **Presbytery Elder's Report** – History was made on 1 February with the first meeting of the new Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian. Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions, it took the form of a webinar instead of the meeting scheduled to be held in St Michael's Linlithgow. The Minister, as outgoing and last Moderator of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, opened the meeting with his colleague, the outgoing Moderator of the Presbytery of West Lothian, and welcomed as the new Moderator of the united Presbytery the Revd Julia Wiley. The outgoing Moderators were thanked warmly for their work in these roles. Presbytery began with a virtual communion service.

Approval was given to the Standing Orders for the new Presbytery including the proposed committees. The Morningside representatives of the Minister, the Clerk and Robert Armour will respectively serve as Convener of the Business Committee, and members of the Property and Deployment subgroups.

Faith Nurture - The Convener reported that pastoral arrangements had been enhanced in the light of current pressures on ministerial staff. Because of the moratorium on appointments caused by the suspension of the existing Presbytery Plan, special arrangements were in hand for Probationers who either had completed, or were about to complete, their training but had been unable to find vacancies. Short term appointments would be made available for application by such probationers. Concern was expressed at 121's suggestion that they would have to commit to such posts for a year which would disadvantage them from applying for any vacancies which might be available before Presbytery Plans were finalised. The Convener was sympathetic to the problem and agreed to investigate.

Resources – The Convener reported that 470 questions had been submitted to the Q & A session held on 15 January. That meeting had distilled the questions into three main themes on which the relevant Convenors made presentations. In his last meeting as Moderator, our Minister skilfully guided the meeting allowing any individual who wanted to speak the opportunity to do so, once only, on each theme. The Convener reported that each question would however be given a reply by the end of February.

Time line for the development of the new Presbytery Plan - Early February 2022: letter to Congregations, Sessions and Mission Districts asking for "considered reflective" feedback on the Edinburgh consultation document; inviting congregations to submit corrections of factual errors and clarifications of descriptions found within Mission Narratives

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!

There are many opportunities to volunteer in our congregation. Here are some groups who, as we emerge from lockdown, would love to welcome more help. Some volunteers have begun to come forward but it would be good to have full and robust rotas as we move into the rest of the year.



Car Rota: helping to transport some of our elderly members to the church services, the rota 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 with this if required. Contact: Ewan and Sally Brown, ewan.b@clara.co.uk

Wednesday Coffee Morning: help is needed at our popular weekly coffee morning to help with the rota. It is good fun and provides a warm welcome to congregation members and members of our community. Contact: Doreen Reekie 664 8431

Church Flowers: the group is always happy to welcome new members on to its rota to help beautify the church each Sunday with flowers. Contact: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com or tel: 449 2866.

Baby and Toddler Group: a hugely important outreach to families in our community. Contact Barry and Helen Hughes, 447 3001

Crèche: an important part of our Sunday services. Volunteers are not required every Sunday but we do need to ensure we have enough to make this provision when it's required. Please contact Evelyn Henderson if you can help, 07749 059537

Kirk Session Communications Group: are you interested in how our church promotes its message and communicates with the congregation and parish? We are looking for people to share ideas with this group, which has a mixture of elders and members of the congregation on it. Please contact Isobel Paterson if you are interested, 447 7315, issiepaterson@hotmail.com

Morningside Hope: there are a number of events run by this new group and help is always greatly appreciated. Contact Jacqui Lindsay if any of the groups interest you, 07834 364 628, or pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Piano Players: are you a piano player, or do you know someone who is? Would you be willing to join the rota for our 9.30am service? Please contact the Minister if you can help. Tel. 0131 447 1617, email derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members:

Ms Janet Smith

Drs Jon & Dora Cossar

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers for the coming month are as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
March	6	Anne & Chris McNeil	Eleanor Watt
	13	Fiona Stewart	Karen Keil
	20	Florence Patton	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	27	Hazel Nicolson	Marjory Watson
April	3	Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson



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



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. It has sparked a lot of interest from outwith the church with a number of enquiries and even some offers of help which all feels very hopeful.

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSES

The **Young Person's Pastoral Training** got underway on Tuesday 8 February. We were delighted at how willing the young folk were to engage with the material. With three more Tuesdays to run, comments so far have been really positive with one person writing: *The first session was great, I liked the interactive stuff and am really looking forward to the next session.*

Our **Adult Pastoral training course** will start on Tuesday 15 March. Currently we have ten people signed up for the course, eight of whom are coming from other churches and organisations. So at time of writing, we still have six places left on this course. Hurry while stocks last!

This is an Introductory course, 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 which 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.

Upcoming events over the next couple of months will be:

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

Held in the Cluny Hall 2- 4pm

March: Monday 7 & Friday 25

April: Monday 4 & Friday 22



March: 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

April: 11 & 25

GAMES AFTERNOON: open to **everyone**, these afternoons are a chance to meet 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

March 23

April 20

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.

The programme for that evening will include:

Prelude and Fugue in G major,

BWV 860 J.S. Bach

Prelude and Fugue in G minor,

BWV 861 J.S. Bach

Sonata in C minor,

Op.10 no.1 Beethoven

Fantasia-Impromptu,

Op.66 Chopin

Overture in the French Style,

Entry to both concerts is by donation.

BWV 831 J.S. Bach

Two Concert Etudes,

S.145 Liszt

i. Waldesrauschen

ii. Gnomenreigen

Improvisation on themes suggested by the audience

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**, contact our Pastoral Assistant Jacqui Lindsay on: 07834 364 628 or e mail: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

PAT RIDDELL – A TRIBUTE

Born in Dumfries on 10 March 1933, many will be surprised to learn that Pat's real name is Stephen Paterson Riddell. His father was already called Stephen, so, after his mother's maiden name, Paterson, the young boy was called Pat, and that is how all of us knew him.

Pat was Dux of St Michael's Public School and went on to Dumfries Academy, where he excelled at French and German, and developed his life-long love of the poetry of Robert Burns.

Pat came to Edinburgh University in 1951 and took his MA and then graduated LLB in 1956. His National Service with the RAF as a navigator gave him a lifelong interest in maps and astronomy. After National Service, Pat worked as a solicitor, in private practice for about twenty years before joining the Law Society of Scotland as Senior Deputy Secretary. Pat met Audrey in 1959 at the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society summer school in St Andrews, and they married in 1961. They had two daughters, Alison and Susan. Last year Pat and Audrey celebrated their Diamond Wedding, thanks to the kindness of Lorimer House where Pat was cared for, with a family lunch.

A quiet, steady faith was a central part of Pat's life. In Edinburgh Pat was initially a member of South Morningside Church, becoming an elder there in 1964, and Session Clerk in 1977 during George Munro's ministry, a post Pat held for 25 years. He edited the church magazine, and up until his health began to decline Pat sang in the church choir, along with Audrey and Alison.

Pat never sought recognition for the many things that he did throughout his life. He was a no-fuss man, and did what he could to help, whenever that was possible. His advice was always well-balanced, though in true lawyerly fashion those of us who knew him will remember his carefully phrased response which began with: "Well, it depends..."

Steady, caring, supportive, willing and ready to help. It is good to remember this quiet man of faith and give thanks for his long life.

BOOK LOVERS' QUIZ



www.sla-india.org/news/literary-quiz-2022

5 rounds about great romantic novels, great affairs, quotations about love, missing vowels and the love of animals.

The prize is a fabulous Gift Set with 2 handmade glasses and a bottle of Harris Gin, courtesy of the Isle of Harris Distillery.

The quiz is available from 14 February for a £5 donation.

Every quiz will support vulnerable children in India

Click here to download your quiz: www.sla-india.org/news/literary-quiz-2022

Closing date for entries - 21 March 2022.



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

APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 18 March 2022** and it will be available by Sunday 3 April. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk.

NOW YOU WILL FEEL NO RAIN

Apache Song

Now you will feel no rain,
For each of you will be a shelter to the other.

Now you will feel no cold,
For each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there will be no loneliness,
For each of you will be a comfort to the other.

Now you are two persons,
But there is only one life between you.

Go now to your dwelling place,
To enter into the days of your togetherness.

And may your days be good
And long upon the earth.



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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