



# Magazine

No. 176 October 2022

Dear Friends

When we come to evaluate the life and reign of Her late Majesty, I wonder what will come to our minds. So many years of service and loyalty and duty. So much wisdom and insight and fun. So many Prime Ministers, world Presidents, and Popes, to say nothing of seventy years' worth of Moderators of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland during her reign.

It is claimed that the Queen was seen in person by or met in person close to one third of the UK population. One of her favourite sayings was, "I have to be seen to be believed."

I have heard some wanting to add something to her title. Will the Queen be remembered as 'Elizabeth the Great'? Undoubtedly there was a great deal of greatness in her life, but she was, despite her royal status, one of the humblest people you could ever meet.

I wonder if she might be better remembered as 'Elizabeth the Good'. Throughout her life, whilst never claiming sanctity, the Queen had that rare but wonderful ability of making goodness appear attractive. She had compassion, empathy, forgiveness, and love. If only other leaders in the world, and the rest of

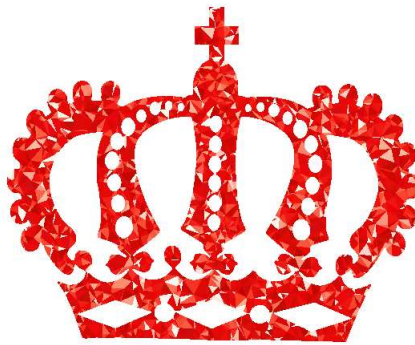
us, could share more readily these qualities.

It has also been remarkable how much media observation has noted the Queen's unabashed and simply held Christian faith. Ready to share it in her messages to the nation, ready to share it in the way she conducted herself throughout her life. She

would often express surprise at people, including fellow Christians, not taking time or making time for prayer, and for regular worship. If only more of us could share more readily these qualities.

These days have made many of us reflect not only on her life, but our own lives. We will have no journalists, biographers and others pondering our lives, or mulling over what our legacy might be. But we will, all of us, have the opportunity to live our best lives to the full, and leave behind our own small fingerprints on eternity. Where our compassion, our empathy, our forgiveness, our love, our greatness, and yes, our goodness will have an impact on some of the lives around us; and some of the groups and organisations to which we belong.

*Very Revd Dr Derek Browning*



## WELCOME!

I'm Michael McMullin, and I have just begun my six-month placement at Morningside Parish Church as a Candidate in Training for Full Time Ministry of Word and Sacrament with the Church of Scotland.

Whilst I now live in Easthouses, Dalkeith, I was born and bred in the Kingdom of Fife. I also spent over twenty years in the North-East of Scotland, so if the odd bit of Doric can be heard when I'm speaking, then you will know why.

My call to Ministry has been a slow, but steady, journey. After leaving Napier University as a Certified Accountant, I worked for over twenty years in both the Electronics and the Oil and Gas Industries. Then I started to feel a growing calling and begun studying at the Highland Theological College, in Dingwall, where I graduated in 2017 with a First-Class Honours degree in Theological Studies. For the last five years I worked for the Church of Scotland as a Mission Development Worker. My first posting was at Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Parish, where I instigated turning the Stenhouse St Aidans Church building into a homeless shelter. I then moved to the south of the city, working across the parishes of Craigmillar Park, Priestfield, and Reid Memorial, where I facilitated various projects, such as: a new foodbank, a cross congregational Listening Service, and a dementia friendly café time.

I look forward to getting to know you all.

God Bless, Michael



Thank you to everyone who extended such a warm and friendly welcome on 4 September, when I was introduced as an enquirer for ministry to Morningside Parish Church. I look forward to participating in worship and community with you all, and meeting many of you over cups of coffee and conversations in the coming weeks.

I grew up in East Lothian and the church was an active part of my childhood, my parents and grandparents being active in varied ways including ministry, overseas mission, music and eldership. After 15 years in London working in the pensions industry, I returned home to Edinburgh in 2014 and found myself "coming home" to the church too. Like another recent MPC enquirer, Jamie Sutherland, I am a member of the congregation at Greyfriars Kirk. I have also been part of the staff team for a number of years; first at the Grassmarket Community Project, then as "Parish Associate" at the Kirk since June 2021. Much of my role is supporting social enterprise and exploring community partnerships at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre for wellbeing and community, located on The Pleasance. I am learning so much already about the fantastic partnerships and community approach at Morningside, and the theology that provides the foundation for these. I look forward to learning more.

During this period of discernment, I seek to explore how best I may be able to share such gifts as I have in service of the church, community and creation. Whatever the outcome, I am grateful for this opportunity to explore the path ahead as an enquirer with you all.

Gillian Couper

## SEPTEMBER KIRK SESSION

From its meeting in September

- **Presbytery Reform:** The Moderator reported that, as Session knew, a 40% reduction in ministries was being sought across the whole Church of Scotland. Presbytery's interim report had suggested a union of MPC with Reid Memorial. Our response was that although we would welcome the congregation and the additional responsibility for an extended parish, it was not a natural union in terms of geography and the A listed building at Reid Memorial was potentially a liability. We were not keen on adding another major building after our efforts to reduce our property portfolio from three listed buildings to one with modern facilities. We had for many years shared activities with Greenbank (GB) and to a lesser extent Fairmilehead (FMH) and we would be reluctant to lose these links.

Presbytery's first draft of its Presbytery Mission Plan had only been issued on the morning of the Session meeting and so far as relating to our Mission District had been circulated by email to Session. It proposes that the Mission District in which we are placed is divided into two sections – one comprising Gracemount, Liberton, Liberton Northfield, Reid Memorial and Tron Kirk/Gilmerton; the other comprising FMH, GB, St Johns Colinton Mains (SJCM) and MPC. It is suggested that FMH, GB and SJCM enter into a union served by two full time Ministers. MPC will join this group initially in a "Parish Grouping and in due course a Team Ministry or Union". The Draft Presbytery Plan has not yet been finalised or approved by Presbytery. It has still to identify the buildings to be retained or disposed of, and is not yet ready to be submitted to the Faith Nurture Forum and the General Trustees for their comment and approval. It was agreed that we enter into discussions as soon as practicable with the other congregations in our group.

The Draft Plan will be discussed at Presbytery meetings in the months ahead with the hope that it is fully signed off by the deadline of December 2022. There is however the possibility that a congregation could appeal Presbytery's decision, but only on procedural irregularities. Full implementation of any approved plan is not required until December 2025

We have specifically been requested to submit to Presbytery our Mission Statement particularly emphasising how we anticipate fulfilling the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of the Five Marks of Mission as it is assumed that the first two Marks are part of the essential work of any congregation. The following statement was approved for submission to Presbytery -

*Morningside Parish Church aims to be a welcoming and inclusive community, working closely with neighbouring church communities, and aspires to continue and develop:*

- *engaging church services, in both relaxed and traditional styles, including strong commitment to choral scholars and concerts, and making events in church open to a wider audience through technology;*
- *the use of our extensively refurbished buildings as a significant community resource and venue for raising awareness of a wide range of social and community issues, for example the annual Autumn lectures (jointly with Greenbank) exploring cultural, historical and social issues, and training for the local Police Keep Safe Place for Victims of Hate Crimes; providing educational opportunities for young and old; and also a providing a venue for local community organisations and groups*
- *training and development of the pastoral caring to the congregation and wider community, including the Morningside Hope project supporting those with dementia and their carers, and the long-established Wednesday Club for disabled men.*

· awareness raising about those in need both locally and overseas and providing financial and practical support: the Edinburgh Clothing Store, the Pad Project (in Africa), the South East Edinburgh Foodbank.

• **Communications Committee: Isobel Paterson, convener, reported:**

**Christmas cards** – it was decided to continue the practice begun during the Covid pandemic of sending Christmas cards to the congregation, either by post or pigeonhole. We will continue to use cards from Crossreach but will stamp them with the church's logo (as the Minister's signature was too challenging to decipher!)

**Christmas Tree Festival** – it was proposed that we ask our own organisations, the organisations who use our space and the charities we support, each to decorate a small Christmas tree for the sanctuary. The organisations might use this to raise awareness of what they do. We could offer teas and coffees and invite donations to our charities. Setting up might be on Friday 9 December, the 'event' on Saturday 10 and the trees would stay up for the service on Sunday 11. It was agreed that there are logistical issues to consider but it was an idea worth pursuing. It was noted that in other churches the trees are sponsored and the suggestion made that a bulk buy of trees might mean they were purchased at a more reasonable cost,

**Photos on wall in corridor at Cluny Hall entrance** – approval was given to the suggestion from the Friends of Morningside Parish Church to have five photographs made of the churches which have joined to create Morningside Parish Church. Bob Cunningham has sourced them but they would be enhanced and printed by Alan Thomson, a photographer who has done other work for us, such as the pictures facing the pigeonholes.

**Christmas Stockings** – a suggestion was made that this year Christmas stockings might be knitted instead of the Christmas angels of last year. There was no doubt that the display on the cherry tree in the grounds had been

very effective and much commented on. The committee will consider the option.

• **Social Committee: Fiona Stimpson, convener, reported:**

A new urn has been installed and the existing dishwasher serviced

A second Hobart Dishwasher, will be £4,999 + VAT = £5,994.

Last year was a hard year because of Covid restrictions. This year was made harder by the difficulty of knowing what best to do in the differing stages of the Pandemic. Whilst we all wanted things back to normal, the reality is that life is not yet back to normal, and decisions had to be made having regard to the fact that many in the congregation are themselves either elderly and/or vulnerable or caring for someone who is.

Coffees after Church services restarted on 19 September 2021. They have been well supported and there is no doubt that people were delighted to have after-church coffees reinstated.

Following Church of Scotland guidelines on social distancing, numbers seated at each table have been restricted to four, and drinks and biscuits are served rather than being self-served, thus avoiding queues. Not everyone is happy and willing to adhere to the suggested precautions and it has been difficult sometimes to encourage people to follow the guidelines.

After much discussion about when people would be available to help, 27 August was chosen as the date for our annual Afternoon Tea. Those most in need of transport to events would be invited, and all those who had had 90th birthdays during Lockdown would have them celebrated with one large birthday cake, instead of the usual individual ones at Coffees on the nearest Sunday to their birthday. However, when the time came for the tickets to be printed, Scotland was experiencing the highest number of infections per head of population in the U.K., and Edinburgh had the highest number in



We are now planning to reschedule this event in a slightly different form by having a Daffodil Tea in April 2023 for the same people. We want it to be a happy afternoon and hopefully by then the weather will be Spring-like, Covid infection rates will be low, and people will be keen to come. We are also hoping that mulled wine and

The Moderator confirmed that at the moment the recommendations from the Church of Scotland were unchanged but he was investigating the position. Any changes in regulations will be considered by the national “Covid Committee” and reported to Session for decision in October.

The Moderator reported that he had been authorised by the Church of Scotland to be a celebrant of same sex marriages.

[illegible]

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

## THE HIGH CONSTABLES OF HOLYROODHOUSE

While following the coverage of our late Queen's travels from Balmoral to lie at rest in St Giles' Cathedral, the eagle-eyed among you may have spotted a member of the Morningside Parish Church Kirk Session standing to attention outside Holyrood Palace. John Scott Moncrieff was present as the Bailie of the High Constables of Holyrood and here explains a little of their history.

The mediaeval Abbey of Holyrood, Edinburgh, with the Palace and substantial Park alongside it, looked to a Bailie to administer it and all related judicial matters. By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century there was in place an influential Abbey Court, at which sat the Bailie and for the service of which there gradually emerged a body of Constables. The Court House, at which all remain based, stands by the main gate onto the Palace's Forecourt.

By Act of (the Scottish) Parliament in 1535, King James V ordered the creation of the Office of Bailie. As the influence of the Abbey Court evolved, the Bailie was supported (and still is) by a Clerk, Fiscal and Deemster. The earliest Constable on record dates back to 1504, with him having been in charge of the Queen's Wardrobe. Over the centuries, the Constables, with an ever-widening range of responsibilities, evolved up to the current contingent of thirty.

With Parliaments occasionally sitting at Holyrood, it was also increasingly used as a Royal residence, with the noble and the great juxtaposing with the destitute and dangerous seeking sanctuary in the Abbey. This resulted in Constable numbers reflecting the need. By 1821, their connections were such that they assumed the title of High Constables, so as to stand apart from Edinburgh's police forces. Maintaining order during the regular election of the sixteen Scottish Peers to serve in the Westminster Parliament was, from 1707 until 1963, a key duty. More recently, some have helped to form the Bailie's Guard at the Arrival and Departure of the Monarch, The Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and, on occasion, other members of the Royal family. The whole Body parades at or around Visits, Investitures, Garden Parties, Dinners, Receptions and, over recent decades, the presentation of the Duke of Edinburgh awards. The return (after 292 years) of a Scottish Parliament in 1999 added to their profile.

The Duke of Hamilton, as Hereditary Keeper of the Palace since 1646, appoints the Bailie (inevitably a qualified lawyer) who, for his part, is formally in command of the High Constables and has the last word as to their recruits. For their part, the High Constables have, since 1812, elected a Moderator, who serves for two years

The Bailie and the High Constables sport in their respective uniforms and badges of office a symbol of the Stag's Head, alluding to the mythical fight, early in the 12<sup>th</sup> century in Holyrood Park, between King David I and a white stag.

John Scott Moncrieff - Baillie





## ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest member,

Mrs Janette Moore-Robertson

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Mrs Sheila Rae who died on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Malcolm Cant who died on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers in October have been donated and will be arranged as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
Oct	2	Michael Hunter	Karen Keil
	9	Dorothy Mushet	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	16	Evelyn Henderson	Marjory Watson
	23	Liz Munro	Liz Munro & Penny Graham
	30	Jennifer Rimer	Joan Burnet
Nov	2	Ian Hastie	Irene Wilson



Thank you to all those who have offered to donate money for the flowers. The cost is £45 and cheques should be payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in a Gift Aid envelope or tell 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 prefer to pay by bank transfer, please contact me for the Flower Fund bank details on [irene\\_a\\_wilson@btinternet.com](mailto:irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com); tel: 449 2866.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

## APPLE AND BRAMBLE TRAYBAKE – from the Manse

Serves 12      Bake 30-35 mins      Gas 5, 190C

100g softened butter	2 eggs
175g SR flour	1 finely ground/chopped lemon rind
1tsp baking powder	1 apple, diced
175g golden caster sugar	150g brambles

1. Line shallow (20cm) square cake tin with baking parchment.
2. Place all the ingredients, except apples and brambles, into a large mixing bowl and beat with a wooden spoon until smooth.
3. Stir in the apple and brambles and spread into the tin. Bake for 30-35 mins until golden and the centre is firm to touch.
4. Leave in tin for 10 mins before turning out and allowing to cool completely. Cut into squares.

Keeps for 3 days. Top with 3tsp of crunchy oat cereal before baking for extra crunch.

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



## NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the November issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 21 October 2022** and it will be available by Sunday 6 November. Please email your contributions to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).

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### From 'Sabbath Poems'

*Wendell Berry*

I go among trees and sit still,  
All my stirring becomes quiet  
Around me like circles on  
water.  
My tasks lie in their places  
Where I left them, asleep like  
cattle.

Then what is afraid of me  
comes  
And lives a while in my sight.  
What it fears in me leaves  
me,  
And the fear of me leaves it.  
It sings, and I hear its song.



Then what I am afraid of  
comes.  
I live for a while in its sight.  
What I fear in it leaves it,  
And the fear of it leaves  
me.  
It sings, and I hear its  
song.

After days of labour,  
Mute in my consternations,  
I hear my song at last,  
And I sing it. As we sing,  
The day turns, the trees  
move.

Minister: Very Revd Dr Derek Browning 447 1617

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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](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)