



# Magazine

No. 179 February 2023

Dear Friends

I came fairly late to taking on board 'the Christian year', that liturgical calendar of dates and seasons that some part of the Church has worked alongside for centuries. Yes, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost were all right, significant spiritual punctuation marks in the year, but it has only been as I got older that Advent and Epiphany, Lent and Ascension and Trinity grew a little more in significance.

As seasons change in nature, so they also change in the Church year. They point to underlying Bible stories and experiences that help us sometimes to bring a structure and order to things. Perhaps more importantly they ensure that we don't always look at the things we find easy and congenial in our faith, but also the things that we find awkward and unsettling.

Towards the end of February, we move from Epiphany, which starts with God being revealed in Jesus to the Magi in Bethlehem, through Transfiguration, the moment on the Mountain where Jesus is revealed shining in glory, between Moses representing the Law of the Old Testament and Elijah representing the prophecy of the Old Testament, to a bemused group of disciples who get a glimpse of what God might be like, and certainly what God stands for, in the here and now. Then on into the purple-dark hues of Lent, a time of introspection, and looking not only at Who and what God is, but also who

and what we are, and where we stand in the ongoing working out of our faith through our life.

For Christian faith to be textured and resilient it has to go through both bright and dark, both easy and hard, both comfortable and uncomfortable. It has to go through these things because if it is to be of any use or value to us in our living, then it has to be supple enough and nuanced enough to help us along the way. A faith that can only cope with the bouncy and cheery is as incomplete as a faith that can only wallow in the gloomy and dour.



There's a technique in the art world called *chiaroscuro*. It means 'light-dark' and involves the use of strong contrasts between light and dark, usually bold contrasts affecting the whole painting which give a sense of volume or three dimensions to objects and figures in a painting.

We move from the brightness of Christmas and Epiphany and Transfiguration to the darkness of Lent. And then on again to the dazzling time of Easter.

Faith at work traverses light and dark and light – helping us face life as it is – and reminding us not only that nothing lasts forever, but that travelling through life, we are never on our own. God, as always, is with us.

*Very Revd Dr Derek Browning*

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

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Very many thanks to everyone who was involved in helping in any way with our Christmas Tree Festival between 10 and 14 December. Though the weather was against us on the Saturday, a combination of church services and events, and three significantly large concerts on the Saturday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings meant that around 600 people saw the wonderful trees, decorated by twelve groups involved with our Church.

It was so important for us to be reminded about the strength of involvement church and community have in supporting good causes and providing good

things across the community. Around £1,000 was raised for the church's charities, an astonishing figure since this event was not intended to be a major fundraiser, but more of an opportunity to showcase some of the activity in our community.

Thank you all so much for your involvement and support - it was truly magnificent.



## DECEMBER KIRK SESSION

From its meeting in December:

**Warm Spaces** - The Moderator reported that he had made enquiries with St Michael's in Dalry and Corstorphine St Ninian's who had both offered Warm Spaces but, although the initiative was positively received as good for the Church's profile, no one came. The lack of attendees may be because their opening was in November when the weather was milder. He proposed that we should trial opening the sanctuary for the month of January on Mondays and Wednesdays from the reopening of the premises on 4 January, from 10.00am to 4.00pm as a "Warm Place for quiet reflection".

**Stewardship & Finance** - Chris McNeil, the Treasurer, presented the Budget for 2023. The budget had been reviewed by the Stewardship & Finance committee. It was noted that Covid had impacted on income, particularly on income from letting as some tenants had not returned and others had been slow to start in the new year. Tenants had also been affected by a slow return to the various classes. Rental income had however picked up on the autumn of 2022. It is proposed that the 2023 budget estimates income of £268,085 (compared with 2022 budget of £248,521 and forecast income to 31/12/ 2022 of £221,747).

The 2023 budgeted expenditure is estimated at £340,966 (2022 budget £315,521- forecast £294,633). This includes a contribution of £99,295 to "Giving to Grow" which replaces payments to "Ministries and Mission" which in 2022 were set at £102,843. Staff Salaries are to increase by 5% from January across the board and the caretakers also move up an incremental step on the University scale on which they are matched.

The budgeted operating deficit will be - £72,881 (2022 budget -£67,000- forecast - £72,886). In addition, Chris advised that Property costs for 2023 were estimated to be £36,200 (2022 budget £80,883- forecast £87,837). These sums would be met from our

substantial investments but Chris made the point that continuing to rely on them to balance the books could not be a long-term solution and in the meantime reduces our income from investments.

Session approved the budget as presented, with strong encouragement to see what could be done to increase rental and other income as we continue to emerge from the knock-on effect of lockdown.

**Staff-** Robin Stimpson, Convenor reported that in many ways 2022 has been a challenging year for our staff, largely arising from the uncertainties of, and gradual return to normal business after, the Covid pandemic. There were many changes over the months in the restrictions imposed or recommended to deal with the pandemic and our staff had to deal with the impact of these restrictions. This could involve changes in work requirements, and trying to encourage/enforce compliance on users of our premises. There were changes in the frequency of use of our premises by users, some of whom were slow in returning and some who did on short notice. We are very well served by our staff and we owe them our gratitude for all that they do.

**New Elders:** the Moderator was happy to report that five members of the congregation had agreed to become elders in the New Year. Details about their ordination and admission would be made available later.

**Communications** – Issie Paterson, Convenor reported that the Christmas Tree Festival had been successful notwithstanding the snowy weather conditions. Wm. Purves, undertakers, had sponsored the purchase of the twelve trees which had been decorated by various groups. The event was open until Thursday and funds raised, in particular from the Saturday event, had raised approximately £1,000 to date.

The Moderator thought it had been useful to attract the public into the church to showcase the building and to give information on the

activities undertaken. Indeed, some members found the information given of interest. The festival had overlapped with three events held in the church by Edinburgh Choral Union, the Telephone Choir and Marie Curie, each of which had drawn large numbers to their respective events. Grateful thanks were extended to all who had been involved in this new event for our Church.

**Presbytery Elder's Report** - The Clerk reported that after the special, and lengthy, meeting of Presbytery on 15 November when the new Presbytery Plan was considered and approved, the meeting on Tuesday 6 December was much shorter and returned to consideration of more routine business. Of particular interest was the welcome to Presbytery of the newly ordained Revd Julia Cato who has been appointed as Associate Minister at our neighbours at Greenbank. Also introduced to Presbytery among others as a candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament was Michael McMullin who of course is currently based with us on attachment.

**Presbytery plan** –it had been reported that “the plan has now been sent to the relevant national committees. These are the General Trustees and the Presbytery Planning Implementation Group (PMPiG), which works under the umbrella of the Faith Nurture Forum (FNF). Their concurrence is required in order to move forward with the implementation of the plan. The General Trustees met on 21 November and some issues were raised regarding some of the building designations.

PMPiG met, as scheduled, on 24 November and then again on 28 November specifically to discuss and analyse the draft Presbytery Plan for Edinburgh and West Lothian. The feedback thus far is encouraging with only a few concerns highlighted.

As far as PMPiG is concerned, there are no ‘major issues’ but there are some ‘conditions’ to be carried out by the first annual review. At this point it is understood that some mission narratives will need to be strengthened and clarity provided regarding deferred unions. More will be reported to Presbytery after the next PMPiG meeting on 15 December.

A Review Panel of the General Trustees met on 5 December to discuss in greater detail the areas that have caused some concern. Typically, the opinions of the General Trustees are passed along to PMPiG and these would thus be available for PMPiG’s meeting on 15 December. If, however, the concerns of the General Trustees are such that they feel that they cannot agree the plan, it is forwarded to PMPiG. Presbytery would then need to re-visit the plan in light of the General Trustees input.”

However, the view expressed was that the indications were that no major modifications would be required but we would need to await the outcome of the Meeting on PMPiG on 15 December.

The Moderator advised that the next Moderator of Presbytery will be the Revd Moira Macdonald of Corstorphine Old Church.



### **ROLL CHANGES**

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of  
Mrs Pamela Anne Duncan who died on 22 December 2022;

David Burnett, who died on 1 January 2023

Miss Anne Sanderson, who died on 2 January 2023



## QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 25 February 2023 at 7pm in the Braid Hall.

The Outreach Committee is looking forward to seeing all our regular quizzers and hopefully some newcomers joining us for a fun Quiz night. We need teams of no more than six people, but if you do not have a team, let us know when buying your ticket and we will find you a team to join.

Tickets are £5 for adults, £2.50 for children, available from Fiona Gossip, Kim Milne or the Church Office, and will be on sale on Sundays 5, 12 and 19 February.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be on sale at the interval and soft drinks and wine will be on sale at the beginning and at the interval.

**SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

## FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers in January and February have been donated and arranged as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
Jan	1	CHRISTMAS	Arranged by the Flower Committee
	8	Joan Burnet	Joan Burnet
	15	Frances Bruce	Eleanor Watt
	22	Barry & Helen Hughes	Irene Wilson
	29	Euan Murray	Marjory Watson
Feb	5	Lorna Graham	Ruth Henderson
	12	Anne & Chris McNeil	Karen Keil
	19	Doreen Reekie	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	26	Janet Smith	Penny Graham & Liz Munro



The Flower List for 2023 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](mailto:irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com) ; tel: 449 2866

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee



# Morningside Hope



This is the umbrella name that we're using for the projects being made possible by the generous grant received from TOR Christian Foundation and the matched funding from the church itself.

If you're like me, it's helpful to have dates in the diary well in advance so below are some of the activities that will be coming up

## 2023 DATES:

**HEART FOR ART:** workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers

Held every Tuesday in St Matthews' Hall 11am - 1pm

Start Date: 10 January



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

Held in the Cluny Hall 2- 4pm

January: Monday 9 Friday 27 February: Monday 6 & 20, Friday 24

March: Monday 6 Friday 24 April: Monday 3 Friday 21

May: Monday 8 Friday 26 June: Monday 5 & 19 Friday 23

July: Monday 3 Friday 21 Monday 31

### Extra Dates:

*Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February will be a special Forget me Notes session giving us the chance to view the film that was made.*

*Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March – guest group, Nigel's All Stars, leading us in Scottish traditional songs*

**GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES** These continue to be dementia friendly *but we have decided that this year we will open the class up to anyone aged 60 or over so that more people can get the benefit of what are really lovely classes.* Many exercises can be chair based and the class is tailored to the needs of those who attend. Feel free to join us just to try it out and see if it's for you.

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

January 16 & 30

February 13 & 27

March 13 & 27

April 17 & 24

May 15 & 29

June 12 & 26

July 10 & 24

**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

January 18	February 15	March 15	
April 19	May 17	June 21	July 19

## DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

We offer four dementia friendly concerts each year.

Open to everyone, this will be a varied programme. The next concert will be on Saturday 25 March at 2pm and will feature our very own Morley Whitehead, church organist and choir master.

Entry is by donation – all welcome!



**PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE an Introduction:** running over two evenings, Tuesdays 21 and 28 March 2023

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 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.

*We are now taking names for this course so please do get in touch if you wish to attend or would like to discuss in more detail, what is involved.*

**PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE Part 2:** running over two evenings, dates in the autumn to be confirmed.

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

**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 need a lot of willing hands to enable this exciting project to happen.

Or if you are 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](mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

## MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERT

At the end of November 2022, we were delighted to welcome an excellent audience to our fourth concert in the Dementia Friendly concert series which we promoted last year. This time we featured the Chamber Choir of George Heriot's School in an early Christmas concert with active audience participation in the carol singing. It was particularly good to welcome young singers with their impressive conductor, Judith Buttars and fine accompanist, Graham MacLagan.

The Heriot's Chamber Choir maintains an excellent standard of performance both within school and outwith and, pre Pandemic, toured regularly, performing in several cathedrals in the United Kingdom and in Europe. Their programme was wide ranging, including both contemporary and traditional music, all benefitting from beautifully controlled and well projected singing. As a little interlude, Clara Harriman Lees gave us a stunning harp solo, an Impromptu by Pierné which was particularly well suited to the excellent church acoustic. It was such a delight to have so many young people giving us an afternoon of pure musical pleasure.

The pre Christmas chat continued over Festive refreshments, well attended by audience and performers. Many thanks to the amazing catering staff and the terrific caretakers who had a very full day with all the earlier morning church activities and performed a miraculous and seamless transformation of the church into concert mode. Our gratitude to all the church staff and stewards, Alastair Keil for his welcome, Douglas Paterson for photography and the Tor Foundation for support.



Our new year of concerts begins on Saturday 25 March at 2 pm and will feature Morley Whitehead, our esteemed Church Organist and Choirmaster. This will be a real treat, don't miss it. Thank you for all the support we have received and we look forward to seeing you in March.

Jennifer Rimer

They say laughter is the best medicine, well, it was in plentiful supply at the Games Afternoon Christmas do. Along with all the usual board games, the highlight for me was Christmas Charades. Acting out elves on shelves and the like, it all made for a really enjoyable couple of hours.

If you are looking for a great way to spend a Wednesday afternoon, come and join us for games, coffee and chat, you will be made most welcome. We meet once a month, 2- 4pm in the Braid Hall. Our next get together is on 15 February.







## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Updates from City of Edinburgh Committee, and Scottish Committee for WDP  
For Edinburgh, an online Bible Study will be held via Zoom on Friday 3 February  
from 10:30-12.00

Leader: Revd. Fiona Kennedy

*Details for joining may be obtained by contacting Morag Donaldson directly:*

*email: [morag.donaldson1@btinternet.com](mailto:morag.donaldson1@btinternet.com)*

The WDP theme for 2023 is: "I have heard about your faith".

The service has been written by women of Taiwan.

From Tuesday 21 February Scottish WDP Committee has planned for "10 Days of Prayer", with short reflections which will be posted on the [wdpscotland.org.uk](http://wdpscotland.org.uk) website and their Facebook page.

The local service for our group of churches (Greenbank, Morningside Parish and St Peter's RC) will be held in Morningside Parish Church at 10.30 am on Friday 3 March. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Braid Hall.

All are welcome to attend this service, men, women and young people.

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### MORNINGSIDE KNITTERS!

After the success of the Christmas knitting project please don't put your needles or crochet hooks away. For a number of years, I have coordinated knitting with a number of friends supporting various charities. I am always looking for new knitters!

I collect knitted goods from an ever expanding group of knitters and post them off to a charity which fills containers and drives them to Eastern Europe. Currently we are supporting Christian Hope International who work with Mission without Borders on a project called "Stitches of Hope". They have a route to the border with Ukraine which they are still able to use and have managed to get things into Ukraine. We have also supported Travelling Basket in Marchmont who have organised convoys of goods into Ukraine. Even before the war there was a great need all over Eastern Europe for warm clothes so you can only imagine what it is like now.

The items which are needed are blankets of all sizes, hats for children and adults, jumpers, cardigans, scarves and all baby clothes. Everyone just uses their own patterns. Generally, we knit in bright colours as there may not be much opportunity for washing. The other projects we support are in hospitals here in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley and Kirkcaldy for babies. Babies are given a woolly hat when they are born to keep their temperature steady. Some of the hospitals operate a traffic light system and give a baby a red yellow or green hat. This helps the busy staff immediately identify the babies who need extra care. However, baby knitting can also be in white if you get tired of bright colours! I can also use any wool if you have some lurking in a cupboard.

I am happy to collect from the church or directly from you whatever suits best. My mobile number is 07977190536.



Thank you

Morag Shankland.

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

## LIFE + WORK – February issue

### ‘A Tangible Thing Everybody Can Do’

As Fairtrade Fortnight begins, how Fairtrade traders and campaigners in Scotland are facing the cost of living crisis.

### ‘We Are Facing Huge Challenges’

The Rev Dr Doug Gay, author of *Reforming the Kirk*, tells of his journey from an upbringing in an Exclusive Plymouth Brethren Assembly to influential theologian – and where he feels the Church of Scotland is going wrong in its reforms.

### Being Intergenerational Church

Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip continue their series on the importance of developing a Church which embraces all generations.

### Sitting Near My Neighbour

John L Bell reflects on the impact of layout on worship.

### Radical Reconciliation

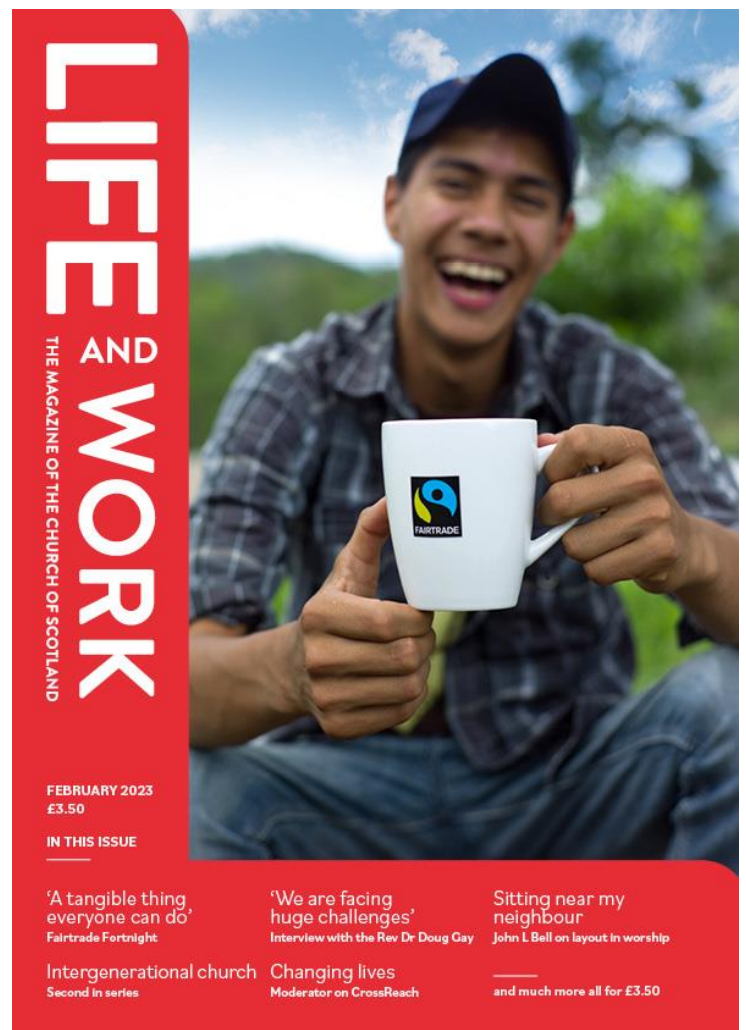
Ruth Harvey considers the message of reconciliation in 2 Corinthians 5.

### A Good Host

The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone reflects on the art of hosting as a vital leadership skill.

### Pilgrim Journeys

The Rev Dr Richard Frazer reflects on the value and gifts of pilgrimage.



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FEBRUARY 2023  
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Sitting near my neighbour  
John L Bell on layout in worship

Intergenerational church  
Second in series

Changing lives  
Moderator on CrossReach

and much more all for £3.50

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### In his article in the February issue on the impact of layout on worship, John Bell writes:

In churches like one I used to attend, a congregation of 40 sat scattered throughout a building with a seating capacity of 1200. One result was that the members, who came from a wide area, arrived and left with minimal interaction. Another was that nobody sang. It is **a rule of thumb that if you sit more than a yard away from another person, you won’t sing in case they hear you. Less than a yard away you are likely to sing because you hear them.**

In that particular church no furniture was removed, but when blue cord roped off the balcony and the back ten pews, people sat together, talked to each other, sang confidently, shared leadership of worship and began to resemble the joined-up body of Christ rather than the scattered tribes of Israel. Attendance also increased.

### Do you agree with his ‘rule of thumb’?

## TWO MORE CHOIR SCHOLARS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES:



**Mezzo soprano Elizabeth Gibson:** This is my first year as an alto scholar at Morningside parish church. I grew up in London and am currently in my fourth and final year of a biochemistry degree at Edinburgh University. As well as singing at Morningside I am a soprano in Edinburgh studio opera. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a choral scholar this year and very grateful for the congregation giving me this opportunity. I grew up going to church with my family where I sang and helped with the music for many years until moving up to Edinburgh, so it's been great to be able to get involved in music in that way again.

**Tenor Archie Bowles:** I am a music student at the university of Edinburgh, I come from Leicestershire and went to Uppingham school before coming to Edinburgh. I sing, play guitar, piano, trumpet and drums and have been in various bands. I also enjoy studying philosophy and enjoy reading, walking and running in my spare time. I am really enjoying my time singing at Morningside Parish Church so far and am looking forward to the rest of my time singing here.

**We hope to have introductions from other choir scholars in the next magazine.**

Coffee and Cake  
at Peggy's



The Open Door will be opening Peggy's Café at 420 Morningside Road (unavoidably closed over recent weeks) to our local community.

We want to give people the chance to be warm while getting together with friends over **COFFEE AND CAKE** on Monday afternoons through January and February.

Starts Monday  
16 January

1.30 - 3.30

Please come along and

Bring  
Your  
Friends

No set charge

Give What You Can

There will be no set charge

These will be volunteer led events. Can you **VOLUNTEER** a couple of hours of your time on one or more Mondays?

Can you help by donating some luscious **HOME BAKING**?

Please contact Simon on 0131 447 9757 or [simon@theopendoor.org.uk](mailto:simon@theopendoor.org.uk)

## MARCH MAGAZINE

Material for the March issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 17 February 2023** and it will be available by Sunday 5 March. Please email your contributions to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk).

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### *Tripping Over Joy*     *Hafiz*

What is the difference  
Between your experience of Existence  
And that of a saint?

The saint knows  
That the spiritual path  
Is a sublime chess game with God.

And that the Beloved  
Has just made such a Fantastic Move

That the saint is now continually  
Tripping over Joy  
And bursting out in Laughter  
And saying, 'I Surrender!'

Whereas, my dear,  
I am afraid you still think

You have a thousand serious moves.

Minister: Very Revd Dr Derek Browning 447 1617

[derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay 07834 364 628

[pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell 445 2330

[editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

Church Administrator: Jan Goulding 447 6745

[office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

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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)

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