



Magazine

No. 183 June 2023

Dear Friends

As I write, I am preparing for the General Assembly. The 'Blue Book', the reports for the Assembly debates, has made particularly grim reading this year. The national church has been warning for years that the time for change, adaptation and renewal in the Church has been with us, well, forever. From its inception in 1560 the Church of Scotland has had to struggle hard to establish its place within the country, whether against vested interests, or general indifference as prevalent in the C18th, for example, as today.

In our own congregation we know that things may be ticking over, but the next ten or twenty years will be critical, for us as for every congregation in the country. People have looked to apportion blame, rarely helpful, or to expect salvation from other bodies. "Can't Presbytery/General Assembly/121 do something?" The fact that Presbytery and the General Assembly are overwhelmingly made up of ordinary ministers, deacons and elders from ordinary congregations suggests that they, like the rest of us, wrestle with the same issues. The Church of Scotland offices at 121 George Street have also seen a drastic reduction in numbers in recent years.

At a recent meeting with our neighbours at Greenbank, Fairmilehead and St John's

Colinton Mains I learned that they, like we, have not exactly been idle. Evident in all four churches are areas of excellence, hard work and imagination, and we will be looking for ways to blend, share and encourage these as we grow in working together.

The unanswered cry is 'Where are the young people'? Lockdown eased away further some of our young families, but the decline has been evident for decades. I talk to grandparents who don't know why their

children and grandchildren don't attend (excepting Christmas). I talk to some of our young families where in this area I find that the demands of school and extracurricular activities at weekends and week-nights means that the Church has been consistently squeezed out. One parent, not a church member, told me some months ago that after the rigours of lockdown and all that was

'lost', young people were to be focussed on making up for lost time and experience, and every opportunity schools offered was to be seized and made the most of in this catch-up time, especially when school fees were involved.

There are no easy answers to these questions. If there were, we'd have found them. It's not simply about changing the music



at church (I know as many young people repelled by rock/modern music as attracted by it!), nor times of services, nor what people wear. Into this mix we must realise that our business is not simply about attracting the young, but also about honouring the needs of the more mature members of churches whose generosity finances what we currently do.

I think answers are to be found in addressing relevance. The work that churches do in tackling food poverty (through supporting foodbanks) is the highest church-community activity across the country. Highlighting ecological issues; addressing inequalities at

home and abroad; perhaps above all others the need to provide a sense of community and belonging. These are things we need to address and re-address. And not to be ashamed of or embarrassed about our faith in Jesus, and why that makes a difference to us.

It is easy to be critical, and to ask questions, but how and where will we find the answers? I suspect nobody else is going to do it for us.

So, thinking on these things over the summer months, what are **we** going to do?

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

WORSHIP NOTES

Communion Services

The next sharing of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be on Sunday 4 June at 9.30am (in the chancel area) and 10.30am in the main church.



Choral Evensong

The choir will be giving a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday 11 June at 7.30pm in the Church. This will be the choir's last service until the Autumn. Monies raised from the service will contribute towards the choral scholarship fund.

The Choir has led Choral Evensong services in past years. This has not only been an excellent service of music, but also very popular one, so do come along and support our choir, and through generous donation help continue to provide for scholarships into the future.

Annual Meeting: there will be a meeting of the congregation on Sunday 2 July after the 10.30am service. The Kirk Session, as trustees of the congregation, have approved the annual accounts, but these will be available to the congregation for information. There will also be an opportunity to update the congregation on the Presbytery plan, and how this will affect our congregation and our neighbours.

Harvest Thanksgiving

We will be focussing the Sunday Service on 24 September on our Morningside Hope and in particular the Heart for Art project. We will also continue our support for the S E Edinburgh Foodbank on that day. More details about how to help will be printed in the next magazine.

2023 SUMMER WORSHIP THEME - FOUR FILMS

Last summer, while our Minister was enjoying a well-deserved summer break, I led worship on four consecutive Sundays which followed a theme based on four Scottish novels. This summer I will again lead worship on four consecutive Sundays and will take the theme of four distinctive films. Each Sunday I will share the plot of the film, talk of its bearing on the Bible reading for that day, and consider the theological implications of both. I think the four films raise questions about prayer.

The films, Bible readings and themes are:

July 23 **"Breaking the Waves"** * Director: Lars von Trier

Starring: Emily Watson

Luke 11. 1-14; Colossians 2. 6-19

Theme: Is it manipulative to pray to God?

July 30 **"Raining Stones"** Director: Ken Loach

Starring: Bruce Jones, Julie Brown

Luke 12. 13-21; Colossians 3. 1-11

Theme: Is it selfish to pray to God?

August 6 **"Babel"** * Director: Alejandro Iñárritu

Starring: Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett

Luke 12. 32-40; Hebrews 11. 1-3, 8-16

Theme: Is it better to pray to God or to listen to God?

August 13 **"Falling Down"** Director: Joel Schumacher

Starring: Michael Douglas, Robert Duvall

Luke 12. 49-56; Hebrews 11. 29 – 12.2

Theme: Is it ethical to pray for a better life?

These films are available on DVD and may be lent from Morningside Library or available on a streaming channel.

* *Please note that **Breaking the Waves** and **Babel** have some explicit scenes.*

Revd. Alistair H. Keil, BD DipMin

ROLL CHANGES



Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of
Mrs Agnes Greig, who died on 23 April 2023;
Mrs Flora Grant, who died on 26 April 2023,
Mrs Catherine Leonard, who died on 27 April 2023; and
Mrs Amelia Maclagan, who died on 15 May 2023.

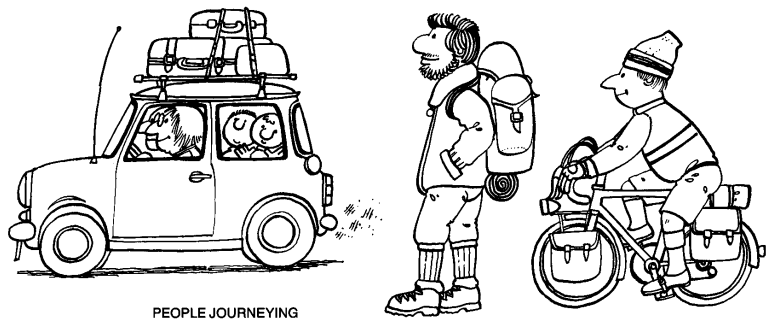
AUTUMN LECTURES 2023

Preparations are underway to organise the Autumn Lectures, to be held in our Church this year, on the Sunday evenings of September. The theme will be: 'This Way ... Pilgrimage and Well-being.'

In recent years there has been a growth in interest in the idea of journeying and travelling, with faith and well-being woven into the mix.

The Camino de Santiago in Europe, and in Scotland there is the St Cuthbert Way, and the fairly new Fife Pilgrim way from Culross to St Andrews. Stepping out into the countryside, perhaps engaging in some spiritual practices, following historic routes which date back to medieval times, people have found that their minds free, and their bodies get exercise, and there is helpful perspective put on life and how we choose to live it.

More details will be available in the September magazine.



**FOR YOUR
DIARY!**

THE WEEKEND OF 22 – 24 SEPTEMBER

We are planning a very full and hopefully entertaining weekend in September to coincide with our harvest celebrations. On Friday 22 September an **Art Exhibition** of some of the wonderful artwork that our dementia Heart for Art Group has produced, will be erected within the sanctuary, along the same layout used to display our Christmas Tree Festival. That afternoon our Music and Memories group will meet and get a chance not just to sing and chat but to have a sneak preview of the exhibition.

Our Church will be open on the morning of Saturday 23 September from 10am – 12.30pm as part of the **Edinburgh Doors Open Day** event. The Minister will conduct a tour around the sanctuary of the Church, but the main opportunity will be for people to come and visit our beautiful Church and get a closer look at many of the outstanding features in the building, as well as the Heart for Art exhibition. Entrance is free - do let friends and family know.

On the Saturday afternoon at 2pm our **Dementia-friendly Concert** will happen, starring the wonderful String Quartet who so ably entertained us last year. This will be followed by refreshments in the St Matthew Hall. From 3 – 5pm on that same Saturday, the Art Exhibition will be open to all to view and admire. The hope would be to leave the artwork up until the following Tuesday to enable as many people as possible to view it.

MAY KIRK SESSION

From its meeting in May:

Presbytery Reform - Approval of Presbytery Plan - The Clerk as Presbytery Elder had circulated a report of the Presbytery meeting on 25 April, a relatively short one disposing of much routine but necessary business. The main item of business related to the Presbytery Plan - earlier that day, the Faith Nurture Forum had at last confirmed its approval of the Presbytery Mission Plan subject to some further amendments. However, for our own area, there was **no change to the amendments originally proposed** i.e. that approval was given subject to the condition that “by the date of the first annual review Presbytery is required to set out in as much detail as possible, when and how it proposes to adjust the charges of Morningside, Fairmilehead, Greenbank and St John’s Colinton Mains.”

A vote was taken at Presbytery and approval given to the adoption of the plan subject to the further additional amendments required by Faith Nurture Forum. However, there is a period of 14 days (closing on Wednesday 10 May 2023) during which any twelve or more Presbyters, or any Kirk Session within the Presbytery, can seek a review of the process used by Presbytery in the preparation and approving of the Mission Plan by sending intimation of this to the Principal Clerk.

The Moderator reminded Session that there could still be changes overall and all plans will be subject to annual review - for our Presbytery this was likely to be April 2024 – one year after initial approval of the plan. Some congregations have been able to progress discussions on implementation as their future had been indicated many months ago. Proposals for the three charges with which we are linked were only finally proposed relatively recently. However, a further meeting had been held with the Ministers and Session Clerks of the four churches designated to work together, along with two representatives from Presbytery’s Deployment of Resources committee and a facilitator. As a first stage, each congregation had produced two papers, one indicating what they do in different areas of church life and one highlighting a year’s diary of events. These papers had been circulated and the latest meeting had very much been taken up with a presentation by each congregation’s representatives amplifying these papers. Clearly much good work is being carried out but the major question is whether there are unnecessary overlaps and whether by working together something greater could be achieved. It was agreed that it was important the respective Sessions should become involved in determining an appropriate way forward but it was necessary first to get to know each other better. Shared events and projects might assist – joint services or perhaps some new joint project could be worth considering as it would be free of any history relating to a single congregation.

In response to a question from Doreen Reekie, it was noted that there had yet to be a discussion of the financial position of each congregation. Robert Armour serves on Presbytery’s Deployment Committee and advised that the original concept had been a union of the three other churches with MPC joining at a later date. However, the Clerk reported that this had not been presented or discussed at the meetings and the focus had very much been on seeking an arrangement for all four churches from the outset. Session was invited to consider and suggest to the Moderator or the Clerk possible ideas for joint activities.

Health & Safety Report - Moira Clark Convenor reported that –

Fire Drills - The caretakers have started carrying out and recording fire drills for building users again, so be prepared for there to be surprise drills when attending meetings etc

Staff health and safety refresher training has not taken place in the last year or so and this will be addressed in the coming months, including what should be covered, who should deliver etc.

Risk assessments are in place covering tasks that we expect our caretakers to carry out, and these will be reviewed in the coming months to ensure they are relevant and complete. Alongside these, the Health and Safety plan and Fire Plan will also be reviewed.

The annual walk round of the building will be completed over the summer months to address H&S and Fire Safety issues. If anyone has spotted anything in the meantime or has any thoughts, please do let Moira know. As ever, health and safety concerns all of us.

Communication Committee – Issie Paterson, Convenor reported -

Christmas Tree Festival – Last year's Festival seemed to bring festive cheer so we hope to repeat it this year. The dates allow the trees to be up for two weekends. Set up would be week beginning 4 December – date yet to be determined. Take down has to be after the service on 17 December to allow for movement of chairs for the various events that follow. The following has been decided –

- Viewing will be daily 10am – 2pm: shorter than last year but we will need stewarding for longer.
- The Social Committee have agreed to serve coffee on the two Saturdays 10-12.
- We will ask the three churches with which we are forming a closer relationship to decorate a tree.
- We are hopeful that Wm. Purves will sponsor us as they did last year.
- Rona McLaren's craft stall, contributed to by a large number of the congregation, proved both popular and profitable last year. She is happy to repeat her efforts this year.

To give participants adequate time to plan, a meeting is to be held on Wednesday 21 June to discuss details. Anyone who would like to help is invited to attend.

Communication within the congregation – We discussed how we might improve our communication within the congregation but concluded that our Minister, Pastoral Assistant and elders were doing a good job. Sunday coffee and flower deliveries provide additional opportunities.

Paper or digital communication by emails, magazine and intimations could be repetitive but that may help to reinforce the message. Christmas cards to the congregation seem to be appreciated.

Communication outwith the congregation - We had evidence that the live streaming is watched very widely: a couple from Cornwall on holiday here introduced themselves as appreciative viewers. We hesitate to claim that it brought them to Edinburgh, but when here they were pleased to introduce themselves and voice their appreciation.

Banners continue to advertise events effectively but we agreed to look at the one for the Summer musical events to check that it was sufficiently generic and adequately smart.

On **Facebook**, the church's page is very active & the '*I Love Morningside*' page useful.

The Jam, Baking and Making Stall continues to involve a wide range of people who raise a useful amount of money for church funds.

Review of the Roll – Fiona Stewart advised that since the last Session there have been six deaths, and the Roll now stands at 348.

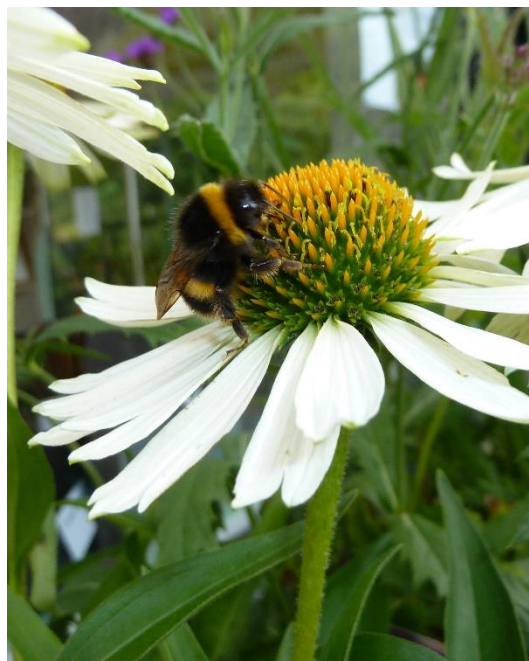
Following the Roll Review and chiming with the review of means of communicating with Church members, the group considered whether there continued to be a need to email or post out quarterly Communion Invitations. As the dates of Communion are widely advertised via the magazine (hard copy or online), weekly email, website and in the Order of Service Intimations, it was agreed that sending out Invitations should now stop.

Appointment of Presbytery Elder - The Moderator proposed and Session agreed to Robin Stimpson serving another year as Presbytery Elder. He reminded Session that Robert Armour also served on Presbytery as an Equalising Elder.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers over the summer have been donated and will be arranged as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
June	4	Fiona Watt	Karen Keil
	11	Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
	18	Dorothy Mushet	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	25	Hazel Knight	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
July	2	Robin & Fiona Stimpson	Joan Burnet
	9	Moira Forsyth	Eleanor Watt
	16	Roger & Jane Prince	Irene Wilson
	23	Trudi Ferrier	Ruth Henderson
	30	Marjory Watson	Marjory Watson
Aug	6	Jim & Annette Jenkinson	Karen Keil
	13	Ewan & Sally Brown	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	20	Margaret Gossip	Irene Wilson
	27	Alistair & Karen Keil	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
Sept	3	Bob Stevenson	Joan Burnet



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 directly for bank details for the Flower Fund on irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com or tel: 449 2866.

Our small band of Flower Ladies is, as always, looking for people to help with our displays. As someone who doesn't have an artistic bone in her body, I can safely say that you never know what you are capable of until you try and we are more than willing to pair up with anyone who would like to give it a go. There is no restriction on gender - if there are any gentlemen in the congregation who would like to join us, we would quite happily become Flower People. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you are interested. I can be contacted at irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com or tel: 0131 449 2866, or speak to any of the flower ladies taking down the displays on a Sunday.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee



SUMMER CONCERTS IN MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

Once again, it is time to mark these in your diaries! As usual, there will be three - Wednesday lunchtimes, 9, 16 and 23 August, 12.30 to 1.15 pm. (NB revised times - to allow for draconian parking restrictions!) At the time of writing, final details have still to be arranged, but there will be: organ + brass; a vocal recital; and - of course(!) - the ever-popular 4 hands / 1/2 piano(s) concert. Do

please come along to these, and enjoy music-making in a lovely building during one of the greatest arts festivals in the world, AND with every penny raised (the artistes take no fee) going toward our Choral Scholarship Fund. We all know how very much our Choral Scholars add to the worship every Sunday ...(!)

Indeed, another "date for the diary" should also be Sunday 11 June, at 7.30pm., when our choir sings a service of Choral Evensong. (There are things for the congregation to sing too!) This is the last occasion upon which we shall see our choir and Choral Scholars before the "summer recess", and it would be gratifying if a goodly number of us could come along, not only to take part in what is surely the most satisfying of services, but also to show our appreciation of the choir's "singing for its supper"! We held a similar service last year, and it was, in all ways, a delightful occasion.

M.W.

CORONATION CELEBRATION LUNCH.

A fabulous Coronation Celebration Lunch was held in the Braid Hall on Sunday 7 May, attended by 72 people, eager to celebrate and have fun.

The tables, which were stunningly decorated, set the scene for 'party time'. We were ready!! Lunch was wonderful - platefuls of delicious goodies kept appearing, accompanied by glassfuls of 'bubbles'. This had all been immaculately organised by Fiona Stimpson and her team of merry helpers. A huge 'thank you' to them all.

A piece of Coronation Crown cake (no! Two!) completed our meal - a delicious end to an excellent party.

Mark McInnes very kindly brought his Coronation

invitation and Order of Service for us all to see, which was most interesting. Mark! We may not have been there but we probably had a better view!



Lord McInnes of Kilwinning and Olivia Thrower cut one of the two cakes





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.

DATES FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS:

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

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



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

Held in the Cluny Hall, 2- 4pm.

June: Mondays 5 & 19, Friday 23 July: Monday 3, Friday 21, Monday 31

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES

Dementia friendly but **open to all 60+**. 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

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

June 21 July 19

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



Morningside Hope

CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

Heart for Art

Dementia Friendly Art Group



CrossReach Heart for Art and Morningside Hope are working together to provide this community-based art group for people living with dementia. These groups provide respite for carers and enjoyment for participants. If you have dementia or know of someone who does, we would love to meet you. No art experience is needed, just your willingness to try. There is no charge, but donations are very welcome.



Tuesday at 11am - 1pm
Morningside Parish Church
2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 6BQ



The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council

Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 5021 081



To book a space please contact:

E: heartfor.art@crossreach.org.uk or

PastoralAssistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

T: 07553 365802 or 07834 364628

www.crossreach.org.uk



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

AFTERNOON TEA – HURRAH, IT’S BACK!

Come along and enjoy Afternoon Tea and a catch up on Saturday 19 August between 2.30 and 4.20 in the Braid Hall. Tickets cost £15 and will be on sale on Sundays 30 July, 6 and 13 August, from Aline Haggart and Fiona Gossip.

If you require transport to and from the Church Hall, let us know and we will try to organise something for you.

If you have any dietary needs, please let us know when you are buying your ticket.

We look forward to seeing you there.

LIFE + WORK - JUNE 2023

‘Knowledge Feeds Our Souls’

Interview with Brother Guy, one of the Papal Astronomers

Letter from the Holy Land

In the start of a regular series from the Church of Scotland’s ministers in the Holy Land, the Rev Muriel Pearson reports on an event bringing together bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families

Assembly 2023

Four pages of reports to the Assembly

The Procurator and Service

The outgoing Procurator to the General Assembly, Laura Dunlop KC, reflects on her 18 years in the role

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Dr Marjory MacLean reflects on what two and a half years in Orkney have taught her about the things that matter in worship.

Playlist for Life at 10

A milestone anniversary for the dementia charity supported by many churches

Regulars

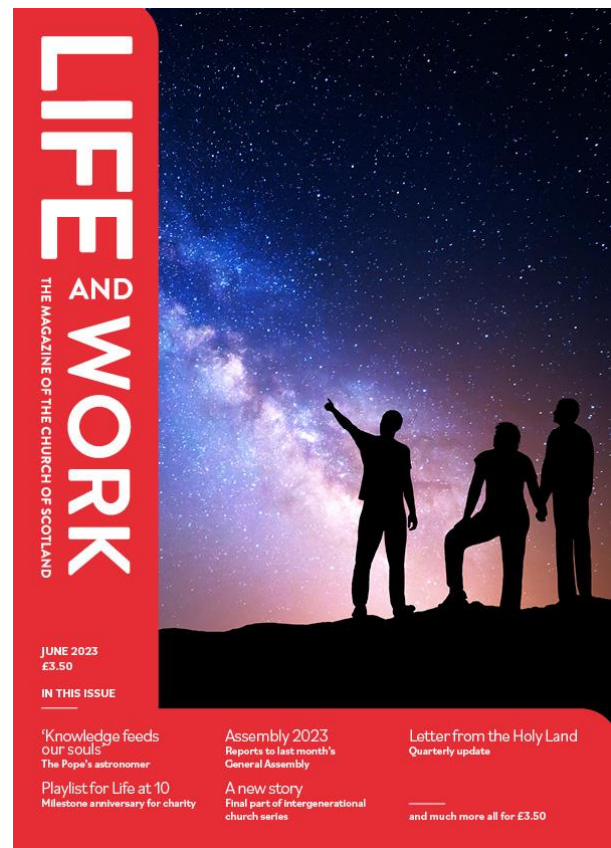
The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone on leadership

The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church

John L Bell on worship

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible Study by Ruth Harvey



SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the September issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 18 August 2023** and it will be available by Sunday 3 September. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk Please note there are **no magazines in July or August**.

Past and Present

*I remember, I remember,
The house where I was born,
The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn;
He never came a wink too soon,
Nor brought too long a day,
But now, I often wish the night
Had borne my breath away!*

*I remember, I remember,
The roses, red and
white,
The vi'lets, and the lily-
cups,
Those flowers made of
light!
The lilacs where the robin built,
And where my brother set
The laburnum on his birthday,—
The tree is living yet!*



Thomas Hood

*I remember, I remember,
Where I was used to swing,
And thought the air must rush as fresh
To swallows on the wing;
My spirit flew in feathers then,
That is so heavy now,
And summer pools could hardly cool
The fever on my brow!*

*I remember, I remember,
The fir trees dark and
high;
I used to think their
slender tops
Were close against the
sky:*

*It was a childish ignorance,
But now 'tis little joy
To know I'm farther off from heav'n
Than when I was a boy.*

Minister: Very Revd Dr Derek Browning 447 1617

derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay 07834 364 628

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell 445 2330

editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Church Administrator: Leigh Malaihollo 447 6745

office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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