



Magazine

No. 182 May 2023

Dear Friends

On Sunday 23 April at 3pm (and I am writing this a little in advance of the event), there is to be a national test of the UK Emergency Alerts system. It is a UK Government service to warn us if there is a danger to life nearby. Mobile phones and tablets (computer-based, not those purchased from the chemist!) will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe. Rather ominously, for some, we learn that 'The Government does not need to know your phone number or location to send you an alert.' You will only get alerts dependent on your current location, not where you live or work unless that is where your device is.

The point of the Emergency Alerts is to warn if there are dangers like severe flooding, fire, or extreme weather. I was reminded of the old Cold War nuclear alerts from the 60s and 70s, when I was at school, when an alarm was sounded and we all had to hide under our desks. Not dissimilar to the safety precautions urged in Britain during World War Two when hiding under staircases or tables was also encouraged during bombing raids.

What are the things in life about which we need to be warned? How good are we at listening to warnings? Where do we go for safety or protection today? In a world where we have been taught to be self-reliant, and where most still are uneasy about being beholden to anyone for anything, these old questions have modern twists. How often is

our natural inclination to say, 'No, I'll manage', or 'No, I don't need any help', or the worst of all, 'I'm fine', when the exact opposite is very often the case. Of course, we must play our part in shouldering responsibility, not just for ourselves, and sometimes for others, but there are times when we aren't going to make it on our own, and we need that extra bravery, which is not weakness or admitting defeat, to say, 'could you give me a hand', or, hardest of all, 'I need help.'

We may well believe that God helps those who help themselves, but that is not to say

that God will not step in to help us until we ask; or others won't step in to help us unless we ask; or we won't step in to help others unless they ask. It's a tough call, but very often the help is there if we need it or, at the very least, we call attention to the problem, or the alert, or the issue, and if it can, help will come, or we travel alongside others as we support each other.

The Psalmist writes: "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth." We won't always need the reminder of a national Emergency Alert. Help is often there, for any of us, for all of us, when we have the courage and humility to ask for it. But help can also be offered to those around us, when we see or hear, or do not see or hear, the needs of others.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

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



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. More details in next month's magazine.

This has been not only an excellent service of music, but also very popular, so do come along and support our choir.

General Assembly 2023

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland meets from 20 to 25 May. The Moderator-Designate is the Revd Sally Foster-Fulton, who is the head of Christian Aid in Scotland. She has formerly been a convener of the Church and Society Council and served in different parishes in Scotland.

Born and raised in South Carolina in the USA, Mrs Foster-Fulton is married to Revd Stuart Fulton, a fellow Church of Scotland minister who recently retired as minister of the parish of Newlands South Church in Glasgow.



A WARM WELCOME...

...to Leigh Malaihollo, our new church administrator.

She says "I'm very happy to be joining the team here at Morningside Parish Church. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming. I'm not only new to the Church, but also to Edinburgh, having moved here with my husband and two young children just last year. When we aren't busy renovating our new home, we are out and about, exploring this wonderful city and all it has to offer. I come from a media background, having worked in the film in television industry for ten busy and exciting years.

I look forward to meeting more members of the community as I settle into my new role. Do come and say hello if you're near the office. I'd love to know where I can get the best Cullen Skink in Edinburgh so any tips welcome!"

APRIL KIRK SESSION

From its meeting in April:

Presbytery Mission Planning: On 9 March 2023, representatives of Fairmilehead, Greenbank, Morningside and St. John's Colinton Mains churches met Keith Graham and Stewart Weaver from the Deployment Group of Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery, which is responsible for the creation and implementation of the Presbytery Mission Plan. There was an external facilitator, Richard Lloyd. The meeting was a first step in addressing the requirement of the Presbytery Plan for the four churches to work together, with the final form of collaboration still to be determined. The Plan requires a specific framework to be agreed by the first annual review of the Mission Plan which will be in a bit over a year from now. The framework needs to demonstrate that each of the four congregations is formally part of the new collaboration. The new partnership will be served by three full time Ministers.

The meeting recognised the importance of getting to know each other better. This might include some visits to the other churches and grass root exchanges between organisations. There was specific agreement to exchange information about activities that each church was involved in; and to swap calendars of events planned over the next year.

It was agreed that a short note would be sent out to congregations from each meeting.

The next meeting will be at Greenbank Church on 27 April.

Report from Staff Committee – The Clerk was happy to report that Leigh Malaihollo who had been working in the office as a temp had, after the interviews of a short list of applicants, been chosen by the Committee to become our new Administrator. She officially started her appointment on 3 April 2023.

Review of the Roll – Fiona Stewart had advised that there had been no changes since Session last met and the Roll still stood at 354. The draft proposals for the revised Districts had been circulated.

She pointed out that changes to the Districts were inevitable following the retirement of 12 District Elders. Although two of the new Elders have volunteered to take on a District, there were still significant gaps to fill. Also, whilst some Elders will have more people to visit, Session has previously agreed that one visit per year (rather than routinely every quarter as at present) is the minimum requirement, though there is certainly no problem if a District Elder wishes to visit more frequently. We also discovered that phone call 'visits' worked well during lockdown where face-to-face visits were more difficult.

She highlighted some of the main changes.

District 1: All visits to care homes will now be carried out by members of the Pastoral Care Visiting Team, led by Jacqui Lindsay and Doreen Reekie. If a District Elder wishes to continue visiting a care home resident, then, of course, they can do so, but it will now be as a member of this Visiting Team.

District 5: One of our new Elders, David Rimer, will be visiting in this District, teaming up with Walter Thomson.

District 8: it was simply not possible for every District Elder to retain their existing District and, as a result, two Elders – Lesley Murphy and Nyria Bailey- are being asked to take on a new patch. Lesley takes on District 8, Nyria, District 17.

District 15: another of our new Elders, Sally Brown, is willing to undertake visiting and will share this District with David Calder.

District 19: This is a dispersed District and, with the retiral of the two previous Elders, it has been decided that it will no longer have a visiting Elder. This District will now be merged with District 20 to create an expanded District 19, the Postal District.

Session agreed the proposals and thanked Fiona, in particular, for her thoughtful and gracious approach to the changes.



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Mrs Audrey Dobson, who died on 14 April 2023;

Mrs Val Mannings, who died on 15 April 2023, and

Mr Alan Macleod, who died on 19 April 2023.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
May	7	Lisa & Lottie Birrell	Joan Burnett
	14	Eleanor Watt	Eleanor Watt
	21	Marie Ogilivie	Marjory Watson
	25	Stuart Bell & Janette Wallace (in memory of the late Wallace and Hazel Bell)	Ruth Henderson
June	4	Fiona Watt	Karen Keil



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.

We were saddened to learn of the death last month of Val Mannings. Until recently, when ill-health stopped her, Val played an active part in the Flower Committee and was our longest serving member. She will be sadly missed.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

HELP REQUIRED!

Car Rota

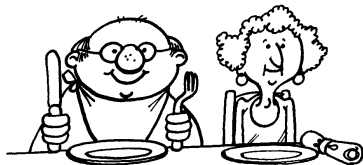
We are seeking a number of volunteers to help with the car rota. Some of our drivers have indicated a desire to stop and we have some passengers on a waiting list. Your help would be very much appreciated. Your commitment would be once every four/five weeks when you would collect a passenger who is unable to come to church independently. All that is required is for you to drop them off as close to the church as possible and take them home after the service. Whether you wish to go straight home or stay on for coffee, our passengers will fit in with whatever suits you. Most passengers live close to the church and we try to make life easier by organising teams geographically to suit drivers. A rota is printed out and sent to you once every three months. If the date does not suit, you just arrange a swap with someone else in your team. **So far only one new person has volunteered; another four or five volunteers would be a real help.** Please consider helping with this important service.



Contact Ewan or Sally Brown ewan.b@clara.co.uk or 0131 447 0113.

Crèche Volunteers

The crèche has been up and running since we returned from lockdown with a small but steady number of infants making use of this facility. We have had some new volunteers to help staff the crèche during the 10.30am service, but more would be very helpful. There is a straightforward Safeguarding process that needs to be followed, and then volunteers would be able to help by selecting the dates they are available. It's a wonderful service to offer, but we do need people to make it work, so if you can help, please contact Evelyn Henderson, 07749 059537, or e_c_h@sky.com



EDINBURGH SOUTH EAST FOODBANK

In the last few months, the effects of the cost of living crisis has been all too apparent at the SE Edinburgh Foodbank. As the cost of foodstuffs has risen so the amount of donations received has fallen, whilst the number of people being referred for food parcels has increased. In the last 4 weeks 144 parcels have been issued, supporting around 350 people, of whom 137 were children. This represents over 3,500kg of food. In the past, donations have matched the amount of food issued but that has not been the case recently as demand is now significantly exceeding donations received.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service in September will, once again, be supporting the Foodbank at Southhouse but, as that is still a few months away, there is a more pressing and immediate need for food stocks to be replenished. Any donations of non-perishable foodstuffs would be especially welcome at this time— rice, jam, tea, coffee, tins of meat, fish, fruit, custard, etc. We would also welcome donations of toiletries such as shower gel, shampoo and toilet rolls, as well as washing up liquid. Donations can be placed in the container beneath the pigeonholes in the Braid corridor.

If you would prefer to make a financial contribution, enabling the Foodbank to purchase goods where stocks are especially low, please send a cheque (made payable to Blythswood Care – South East Edinburgh Foodbank) to Blythswood Care, Highland Deephaven, Evanton, Ross-shire, IV16 9XJ. If you would like an acknowledgment of your donation, or to register for Gift Aid, please include your e mail address. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

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



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 FEW 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.

May: Friday 26 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

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

Please note that there is no games afternoon in May.

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 CONCERT

At the end of March, we were delighted to start our 2023 series of dementia-friendly concerts with an impressive organ recital by our Church Organist and Choir Master, Morley Whitehead, with one of our current Choral Scholars, Nasreen Lofti, providing some beautiful vocal solos. We attracted an excellent audience and hope to build on this success in our future concerts.

The programme was eclectic and well-chosen with excellent commentary provided by Morley to aid the listening. Some old favourites combined



beautifully with some novel items such as Mozart's *Adagio for a Glass Harmonica* and a charming piece by Michael Christian Festing, his *Largo, Allegro and Aria* plus variations. Nasreen complemented the organ pieces with a beautiful unaccompanied rendering of the *Skye Boat Song*, with some spontaneous audience participation followed by some moving Elgar and Fauré. Morley's concluding pieces included the *Swan* from Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, usually heard on the cello, and as a finale, he played Boëllmann's *Toccata* from his *Suite Gothique*, or as Morley preferred to call it, 'Fungus the Bogeyman', demonstrating a rousing conclusion with full organ power!

Again, post concert refreshments and a chance to chat were greatly enjoyed by the audience and performers and grateful thanks to the amazing catering staff and the caretaker. In addition, our gratitude to all the church staff and stewards, the Minister for his welcome, Douglas Paterson for photography and the Tor Foundation for support.

Our next concert is on Saturday 27 May at 2 pm and will feature, by popular demand, a return visit by the Brass Quintet with another 'hands on' experience. This will be a real treat, don't miss it, and please encourage any brass players you know to come along, including children who will be most welcome.

Thank you for all the support we have received and we look forward to seeing you again on 27 May.

Jennifer Rimer

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE

We have just completed our Introduction to Pastoral Skills Course. It ran over two evenings with 11 participants representing 4 different churches.

On the second evening Caroline O Hara from Alzheimer Scotland joined us to lead a Dementia Friends session that gave us a really useful introduction to what dementia is and what we might do to support people more usefully.

We were, as always, very grateful to the ladies of the Social Committee who gave up their evenings to provide a lovely supper at the beginning of both evenings.

The course is designed to be informative and enjoyable, and the comments below would suggest we managed to achieve that.

"Thank you for...the interactive activities, new information"

"Excellent!"

"I really enjoyed the fellowship over supper...it felt relaxed, started to break down barriers, thank you"

"Thank you for putting us all at our ease"

Level 2 will run over two evenings; 3rd & 17th October and we would plan to run Level 1 again next Spring.

For more information about the course, please contact Jacqui Lindsay at:

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk Mobile: 07834 364 628

MUSIC AND MEMORIES AT EASTER

In April we had a lovely celebration of Easter at our Music and Memories group.

It was all hands on deck with our wonderful volunteers



baking, creating decorations and then decorating the hall and tables beautifully. We had our singing session in the church itself and then retired to the Cluny Hall to tables groaning under delectable eats and treats, an Easter Afternoon Tea to die for.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Friday 3 March 2023 in Morningside.

This had been prepared by WDP women in Taiwan, on the Theme: "I have heard about your faith" (Ephesians 1: 15-19), an invitation to active listening to the stories of faith within our own communities.

Those taking part in leading our service included members of Greenbank Parish Church, and the Society of Friends as well as Morningside Parish, with others assisting in practical ways, and attendees numbered 30 in all. Our third partner church in the group is St Peter's RC Church, who hosted the 2022 service, but only a few were able to come on the day as others had a funeral commitment.

The offerings for WDP work came to £171 which, with Gift Aid added, will be £190.

Grateful thanks are due to all involved and attending, especially members new to the church. For the first time, we had the opportunity to invite a speaker from Taiwan who has been worshipping with us to give some insights from the "writing country", within the service and also during the happy time of fellowship and refreshment afterwards.

Special thanks for their forbearance are also due to all who were caused some extra work and inconvenience since the date fell on a Friday just before our services of Holy Communion.

The photo shows the table decorated with colours and symbols of Taiwan.



THE FRIENDS OF MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

The Friends of Morningside is an independent charity established in 1990 whose objects are to help maintain and embellish the fabric and surrounding grounds of the Church and develop an awareness of our history and heritage. The Friends contribute significantly to our choral scholarship programme. They gave the St Cuthbert window to mark the formation of Morningside Parish Church in 2003, provided the purple Lent pulpit fall and contributed towards the purchase of new communion table linen. They provided the coffee machines in the kitchen and contributed towards the purchase of the defibrillator at the caretakers' station. They also contributed towards the improvement of the lighting in the chancel area of the church and funded the pictures in the corridor opposite the pigeonholes, and many other projects.

Membership of The Friends of Morningside Parish Church is open to anyone in sympathy with these objectives. At the AGM held in April, each subscribing member has the opportunity to express views. During the year, occasional social events take place. The minimum annual subscription is £10 payable to:

The Treasurer of The Friends of Morningside Parish Church, Morningside Parish Church, 2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 6BQ.

Edinburgh: Morningside Parish Church of Scotland: Scottish Charity No: SC034396

CAMOUFLAGE NETS FOR UKRAINE



Some Ukrainians alongside others are making camouflage nets in different locations in Edinburgh including Morningside, to then send them to Ukraine. The society is called Edinburgh Spiders and they have already made and sent 37 nets, some 5×5 m, others 5x10m each.

Camouflage nets are used to cover field hospitals and help save lives from enemy aviation. The Russian army is notorious for killing not only military staff but also doctors, nurses, their patients and other civilians. Camouflage nets are also used for green corridors to exchange people released from captivity and let civilians leave dangerous areas.

How can you help?

- We use **old, used clothes or bedding** to make the nets. We can use any old clothes, cloth, old sheets or rags/ offcuts from natural materials in shades of dry and winter stepp (olive green, grey, camel, brown, beige, white). Unfortunately, we are not able to dye bright or dark coloured fabrics
The cloth should be natural as if it catches fire, man-made materials melt and can cause serious injury. It is also helpful if the material is quite thin to make the nets lighter (not towels, blankets, jumpers or thick material, please)
- **volunteer** your time to weave the nets themselves
- **donate money** for the things that have to be bought (base netting) and cloth dye. Each net costs £26.

We accept donations here:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/edinburgh-spiders-nets-for-ukraine?utm_term=d7z8Qzbra

National News Interview:

[One of Edinburgh Spiders organisers on STV on 23rd February 2023 - YouTube](#)

Explanatory video: [video 2023-02-20 17-48-04.mp4](#)

For more information, please contact: Hanna Tekliuk on: 07442469018, or speak to our Pastoral Assistant Jacqui Lindsay who would be happy to pass on any donated materials etc.

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



The Friends of St Andrew's

Jerusalem & Tiberias

invite you to meet

Daoud Nassar

Tent of Nations, Bethlehem



1.00pm, Friday 19th May 2023

St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2EP

Come and hear **Daoud** speak about

- what **life is like** for Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank
- his **family's struggle** to retain their land in the Israeli courts
- his **commitment to non-violence**
- the **motivation** and **strength** he gains through his faith.

Come and have your faith enriched.

All welcome

Admission free, though donations to the work of The Friends welcome.



'We refuse to be enemies'
(on stone at entrance to Tent of Nations).

There will be an opportunity to buy Fair Trade Palestinian goods from Hadeel.

www.standrewsjerusalem.org/friends

friends@standrewsjerusalem.org

LIFE + WORK - MAY 2023

The Coronation Stone Ian Bradley reflects on the Scottish influence on the King's coronation

General Assembly 2023 Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Sally Foster-Fulton; Reports to the Assembly; Assembly and Fringe timetables

Christian Aid Week Interview with the chair of a Malawian farming co-operative supported by Christian Aid

What is the Will of God? Continuing the series on Intergenerational Church, Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip highlight the importance of being led by God in finding the balance between tradition and innovation

Deepening Faith A group of young people from a Falkirk church share their reflections of a trip to Israel and Palestine

My Church Sheena MacFarlane OBE says there is 'growing optimism' around Port Glasgow New Parish Church

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JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 19 May 2023** and it will be available by Sunday 4 June. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk As there are **no magazines in July or August**, details of any summer events should be included in the June issue.

Spring

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;

*Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring*

*The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush*

*The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.*

What is all this juice and all this joy?

*A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,*

*Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,*

Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.



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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