



Magazine

No. 185 October 2023

Dear Friends

I'm in the process of preparing an official appraisal for a Presbytery office bearer. Appraisals, no matter how often they are couched in language of 'encouragement', 'observation', 'helpful to the appraisee as well as the appraiser', always smack a little of judgement, and that can make us feel uncomfortable.

One of the key things in any appraisal is for both sides to assess not only the nature of the work that has been done, is being done, and is planned to be done, but also to assess the environment of the workplace, the nature of the job, the realism around expectations (on both sides) and the quality of the relationships that surround the job. I don't think anything in an appraisal should come as a complete surprise if the quality of the relationships between those around the job is open, constructive and supportive, as well as realistic.

A few weeks ago I preached on a passage from Paul's Letter to the Romans, where Paul gives a list of things Christians ought to be able to check off their list of, 'How am I being a Christian'. One of our young people gave

one of the best descriptions of what it takes to be a Christian. "Be kind."

But other words came too: honest; patient; prayerful; faithful; hopeful; loving. To be hospitable was also a description that seemed to fit the bill for being a Christian.



Very few will be able to tick all the boxes when it comes to being Christian. There are some things we don't do, but I would suggest that there are many things that we are doing, and it may even be that some of these things we are doing well.

Whether as an individual, or as a Church.

Of course, there is always room for improvement, and readjustment, and trying again. But as you read this, imagine friendly Jesus coming into the room, maybe even with a clipboard, and saying to you: "Right, let's get on with your appraisal. How are things with you? How have you been doing? What have you been doing?"

You might be surprised where the conversation takes you.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

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

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in September:

- The **Roll Keeper, Fiona Stewart**, gave information about admitting six new members to our congregational roll.
- **Fiona Stimpson, Social Convener**, reported that the extra dishwasher installed in the kitchen last year has made a significant difference. Teas and coffees continue to be served each Sunday except at Christmas and New Year. From this Autumn there will be two teams of men serving coffees. Teas and coffees provide an excellent way for the congregation, and visitors, to meet, and many have come into membership because of the welcome received. The Social Committee has provided food and drink for pastoral training events. It also organised a Coronation Lunch to mark the Accession of Charles III and a wide selection of treats along with Prosecco made it a memorable day. Another memorable event was the afternoon tea in August which was enjoyed by many members and friends of the congregation. It is so important that we continue to have these sociable events. Not only do they raise money for the two charities supported by the Church and the Church itself, but they provide social contact for a lot of people, vital for a happy community. The Social Committee and supporters work hard as a team to ensure the highest standards are not only met, but surpassed.
- **Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant**, reported that the next Dementia Concert is on Saturday 23 September at 2pm and will feature the return, by popular demand, of the wonderful string quartet, Heart Strings. This will be part of the Harvest Weekend where the Heart for Art Exhibition will be on show from Friday to Sunday. The 15-minute film that features our Music and Memories group will also be available to watch. Our November concert will in fact be two concerts, a Musical Extravaganza of a weekend, with Rock Opera on the Saturday afternoon and a return of

George Heriot's Chamber Choir on the Sunday afternoon.

Animal Afternoons: we've been delayed starting these, but the first one is on Tuesday 31 October at 2pm when we will be visited by three alpacas from our local Alpaca farm – open to all and dementia friendly.

Heritage Talk: Friday 6 October 2 – 4pm. The talk, lasting 35 – 40 minutes followed by teas and coffees, gives a chance to hear something about the development of Morningside from 1800 onwards.

Pastoral Care Training: Abbey church in North Berwick has asked us to provide level 1 and Jacqui will be running it in the second half of September. The church will be making a donation to MPC for her time. We have also been asked to provide a 3-hour taster session to Portobello and Joppa church and she will be running this on the afternoon of Sunday 15 October. Level 2 of our own pastoral care courses will run on Tuesdays 3 and 17 October and is open to anyone who has completed level 1. We will need a minimum of 8 to run this course.

Heart for Art: Currently we have 15 participants, our full cohort, and have started a waiting list. The new banner is now on our railings, and a flier has been created that can be used to further advertise this group.

- **Isobel Paterson, Communications Convener**, reported that the Jam, Baking and Making Stall having begun as a 'one off', has come to be a continuing success on the last Sunday of every month except December. It raises money for our own church's funds and involves the whole congregation in terms of serving at the stall, producing goods to sell and, of course, buying. The eight stalls so far in 2023 have raised £1,661.25.

The Christmas Tree Festival will be from Saturday 9 – Sunday 17 December, 10am – 2pm. Help will be required to set up, steward, and dismantle. The Church's charities will be the beneficiaries. Rona McLaren is in charge

of the Craft Stall – having proved her capability last year. One heart-warming benefit is the contribution to this made by some of our housebound members.

- **Robert Armour, Stewardship Convener**, led a discussion at the Session about a future Stewardship Campaign whose aim will be to address our deficit, and to encourage all members to review their giving positively. The startling fact remains that if each of our members increased their giving by £5 per week, the deficit would be addressed. There is a need to encourage sustainability and realism in our Church's finances. More information about the Stewardship Campaign will be forthcoming.

- **Robin Stimpson, Staff Convener**, raised the issue of re-engaging cleaners. During and since the Covid pandemic the caretakers had taken on the task of cleaning the building. With the welcome increase in usage of the building, and with absolutely no reflection on their willingness and hard work, it has become increasingly clear that it is no longer possible for them to keep on top of the cleaning required. Moira Clark had kindly agreed to research alternative arrangements and had identified a firm who would take on the task. Subject to Session's approval, she would finalise arrangements. It is proposed that the cleaners would work on weekdays in early mornings, liaising with the caretakers when they start. The company will supply equipment and materials. It is proposed that they start with a deep clean to bring all areas up to standard and thereafter continue to maintain them to that standard. It may be that periodical further deep cleans will be desirable. The additional costs are yet to be finalised but will be in the region of £1000 per month. The caretakers will retain responsibility for dealing with any necessary interim cleaning. Session recognised that this was essentially a reinstatement of previous arrangements, thanked Moira for her work and agreed to the proposal. They also expressed

their thanks to the caretakers for taking on cleaning duties during and after the pandemic.

- **Robin Stimpson, Session Clerk and Presbytery Elder**, reported on the June 2023 Presbytery meeting. The June meeting covered a wide range of business including approval of a reordering of Presbytery's Committee structure and appointment of new conveners to three of the committees.

Farewells were made to ministers leaving their charges; Revd Rolf Billes from Colinton; Revd James Dewar from Juniper Green; Revd Scott Raby from Fauldhouse St Andrew's; and Revd Jack Holt from Polwarth.

Approval was also given to several unions following the approval of the Presbytery Plan. Some congregations had had an early indication of proposals affecting them and once the overall plan was approved were able to proceed quickly to implementation. Thus, approval was sought and permission given for the unions of the congregations of Cramond and The Old Kirk & Muirhouse, Meadowbank and Willowbrae; and Dalmeny and Queensferry. There is an enormous amount of work facing the Deployment Group in the year ahead. Not only are there unions to progress, but there are Reviewable Charges to review and annual reviews to be made. Their priorities will be unions, reviews of Reviewable Charges and annual reviews as stipulated by the national church.

Our neighbours at St John's Colinton Mains were granted permission to apply to the General Trustees to draw down up to £100,000 from their holding in the Consolidated Fabric Fund to pay consultants' fees for a review of the detailed design and tender documentation for major improvements to the church building. Proposals had previously been approved but permission to proceed held back until the future of the building was confirmed in the Presbytery Plan. The Plan shows SJCM as category 'A'. In the meantime, an inspection in Autumn 2022 revealed the need for a number of urgent repairs, which have now been carried out. The

cost of these, together with rising construction prices and the need for some changes to achieve listed building consent, means that the original scope of the project needs to be revisited. Improvements are, however, necessary to make SJCM a well-equipped space and they now propose to proceed with detailed design and tender documentation. SJCM would still need to revert to Presbytery for final permission to proceed with the works, following receipt of tenders.

A proposal by Linlithgow St Michael's was approved to carry out extensive repair work to their Crown of Thorns steeple at a cost then estimated at £360,569 including VAT and fees. Tenders were obtained, and the lowest was

£107,734 in excess of the previously approved figure. The increase is due to a combination of recent construction cost inflation in the type of materials required, scaffolding contractors taking fright at the complex scaffolding needed, and one of the only two European manufacturers of the bronze alloy cladding buying out and closing the other, moving manufacture to Germany, and raising the price. Historic Environment Scotland has increased its grant contribution from £50,000 to £90,000 and, together with additional fundraising and support from the General Trustees, the congregation has sufficient funds to proceed on the basis of the lowest tender.

WORSHIP NOTES

Communion Services

The next sharing of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be on Sunday 1 October at 9.30am (in the chancel area) and 10.30am in the main church.



The Clocks go back by one hour on Sunday 29th October!

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November, 10.45am in the Church. There will be no 9.30am service that day.



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members:

Mr Robert Brown and Mrs Jennifer Brown

Drs Robert and Mairianna Clyde

Rev Dr Peter Preble

Ms Jane Bowler

FLOWER COMMITTEE

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
Oct	1	Walter Thomson	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	8	Michael Hunter	Karen Keil
	15	Laurence & Irene Hall	Marjory Watson
	22	Joyce Maclean	Joan Burnet
	29	Jennifer Rimer	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
Nov	1	Ian Hastie	Irene Wilson



I would like to thank all those who have offered to donate money for the flowers. The cost is £45 and cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes or advise me if you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole, given to me on a Sunday or sent to the church office - clearly marked for my attention. If you would prefer to pay by bank transfer, please contact me direct for bank details for the Flower Fund on irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com ; tel: 449 2866.

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 (tel: 0131 449 2866) or speak to any of the flower ladies taking down the displays on a Sunday.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

"Will Your Anchor Hold in the Storms of Life"

is the first line of a very popular hymn with a nautical theme. The words were written by Priscilla Jane Owens, who was a Sunday school teacher at a Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland. The words are inspired by the Epistle to the Hebrews, Chapter 6, Verse 19: "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." This hymn has always been associated with the Boys' Brigade, whose motto is "Sure and Stedfast".

The tune was written by William J. Kirkpatrick, who also composed the tunes of many other hymns, including "Away in a Manger".

Willie Scott



OLD EDINBURGH

South Morningside
with Cable Tramcar c1905

COLLECTORCARD C156
Croydon CRO 1HW

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORNINGSIDE FROM 1800 TO 1930

If you haven't yet had a chance to hear this wonderful talk, or indeed if you would be keen to hear it again, please join us **on Friday 6 October** in the Braid Hall, 2pm. The talk itself will last approximately 35 – 40 minutes and will be followed by teas and coffees.

This fascinating illustrated talk presented by Bob Cunningham describes Morningside's development from a tiny rural village in 1800 to a modern Edinburgh suburb by 1930.

In it, he explains the factors which made Morningside such an attractive place to stay after 1800 and identifies a number of important residents who have lived there over the years.

Bob also describes how Morningside's population explosion of the later 19th century generated a vast property expansion, promoted the arrival of new sports and leisure activities and created the emergence of many new local businesses. The importance of women in Morningside society and the impact of the Great War on the local population are also covered in his talk.

AN AFTERNOON OF TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH MUSIC

Back by popular demand, **Nigel's All Stars** will be performing for us again on **Monday 16 October** at 2pm in the St Matthew's Hall.

This will be followed by teas and coffees and a chance to chat to the players as well as one another. This event is open to everyone, and entry is by donation. We look forward to seeing you there.





FRIENDS OF MORNINGSIDE EVENT

The Friends of Morningside will be hosting a fund-raising event on Tuesday 24 October at 7pm in the Church. The guest speaker will be George Anderson, TV presenter on BBC's *The Beechgrove Garden*. The theme, "How did we get to be here?" – a lifetime in horticulture.

There will be an admission charge of £10, which will go towards the funds of The Friends of Morningside.

The Friends have, since the 1990s, provided financial support for many projects around the Church. They refurbished the eagle lectern, provided

choir robes, commissioned the St Cuthbert Window that marked the union that created Morningside Parish Church, contributed towards the purchase of the mini grand piano, helped with the refurbishment of the organ, refurbished the war memorials, provided the glass etching of the Church of Scotland emblem on the glass door in the vestibule, provided the 'text boards' for the chancel, make a significant annual contribution to the choral scholarships, framed the pulpit falls from the original Morningside Parish and Braid Churches, and recently provided the photographs of the five churches that have made up the union of the new Morningside Parish Church.

The objects of the Friends of Morningside Parish Church are to raise funds by subscription and other appropriate means to provide supplementary resources for:

1. The maintenance and improvement of the fabric of Morningside Parish Church and the surrounding grounds.
2. The renewal and enhancement of furnishings and equipment in these buildings.
3. The maintenance of services and praise in Morningside Parish Church.
4. The development of awareness of the heritage of the congregation of Morningside Parish Church.

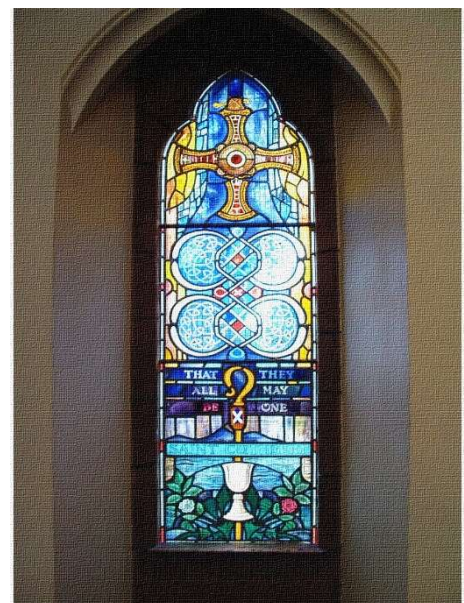
Membership of The Friends of Morningside Parish Church is open to **anyone** in sympathy with these objectives.

The minimum annual subscription is £10. For further information, contact:

The Treasurer of The Friends of Morningside Parish Church,
Morningside Parish Church Office

2 Cluny Gardens

Edinburgh EH10 6BQ



The St Cuthbert Window



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 Matthew's Hall 11am - 1pm



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

Held in the Cluny Hall, 2- 4pm.

October: Monday 2, Friday 13, Monday 23

November: Friday 3, Monday 13, Friday 24

December: Monday 4, Friday 15

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

October: 9, 16, 30

November: 6, 20, 27

December: 11

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

October 18

November 15

December 13

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE

Level 2: running over two evenings, Tuesdays 3 and 17 October 2023

Open to those who have completed the introductory course held in the spring and want to further develop their skills and knowledge.

The course will run from 6 –9.30pm each evening, hopefully starting with a light supper.

There is a maximum of sixteen places on the course. There is no necessity to make 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.
- Bereavement

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.

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

THE ALPACAS ARE COMING!

The therapeutic benefits of spending time with animals has long been understood - being with animals does us good.

With that in mind, we have arranged a very special visit from some of the residents of our local alpaca farm to give us a chance to pet, feed and generally enjoy the company of these gentle, gorgeous animals.

You would be very welcome to join us on:

Tuesday 31 October in the St Matthew's hall, 2 - 3pm. (Yes, indoors...) We may even be able to stretch to a cup of tea, but for us, not them 😊



LIFE + WORK - OCTOBER 2023

Tax and Justice

On a milestone anniversary for income tax, looking at what the Church has to say on the relationship between faith, money and justice.

A Living Language

How the Church of Scotland is keeping Gaelic alive in worship

'Words need translation, love does not'

A pioneering Scripture Union camp for Ukrainian families in Scotland

Making Ends Meet

The work of Community Pantries in local churches

'As a witness, it's traumatic'

Church volunteers working with refugees arriving in Italy

View from the Pulpit

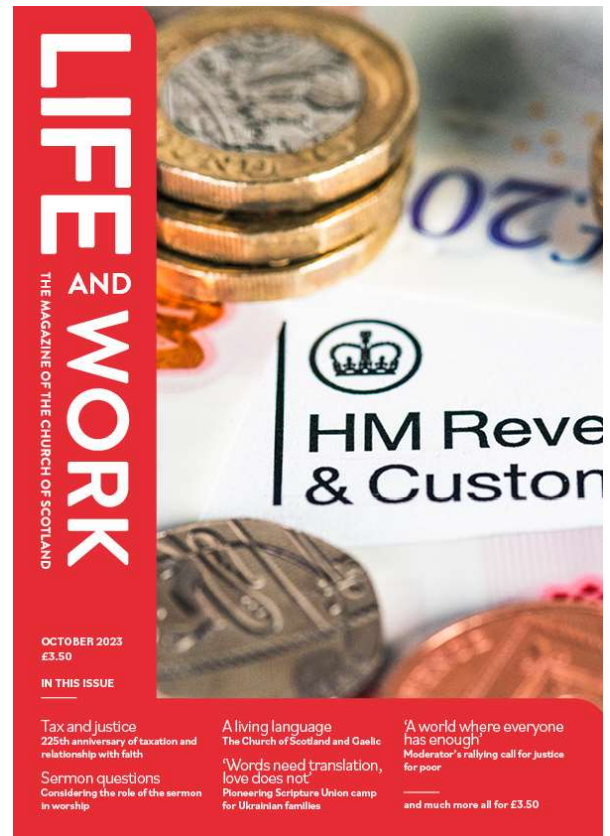
The Rev Rosie Frew on the influence of pilgrimage and walking outdoors

Regulars

The Rev Roddy Hamilton on worship

The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone on leadership

The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church



Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible Study by Ruth Harvey

LIFE + WORK SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription forms for next year's Life & Work are being forwarded to all current subscribers. For those who wish to take out a subscription for the first time, forms are available from the Church Office. The annual cost is £42 and further details are given on the form, which must be returned no later than **Thursday 9 November**. If anyone wishes to purchase a digital subscription, this can be done online at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe.



Our new Monday Friendship Club now has places:

- **Our Friendship Clubs are here to help you or your loved one by bringing older people together to keep active and stay connected.**
- **Join us at our Monday Friendship club and enjoy all sorts of stimulating activities, a fresh meal, and a fantastic group of new friends**



The Monday Friendship Club

For more information please contact:

0131-447-9757

email: care@theopendoor.org.uk

www.theopendoor.org.uk

NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the November issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 20 October 2023** and it will be available by Sunday 5 November. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk .

Hurrahing in Harvest

*Summer ends now; now,
barbarous in beauty, the
stooks arise*

*Around; up above, what
wind-walks! what lovely
behaviour*

*Of silk-sack clouds! has
wilder, wilful-wavier
Meal-drift moulded ever and
melted across skies?*

*I walk, I lift up, I lift up heart,
eyes,*

*Down all that glory in the
heavens to glean our Saviour;*

*And, éyes, heárt, what looks,
what lips yet gave you a*



Gerald Manley Hopkins

*Rapturous love's greeting of
realer, of rounder replies?*

*And the azurous hung hills are
his world-wielding shoulder*

*Majestic -- as a stallion
stalwart, very-violet-sweet! --*

*These things, these things
were here and but the
beholder*

*Wanting; which two when
they once meet,*

*The heart rears wings bold
and bolder*

*And hurls for him, O half hurls
earth for him off under his feet.*

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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



**Clocks go BACK by one hour
on Sunday 29 October!**