



Magazine

No. 186 November 2023

Dear Friends

Last month I had a few days in London and attended a starry event raising money for a statue for Benjamin Britten. In conversation at the champagne reception afterwards I was delighted to be chatting to the legendary English mezzo soprano Dame Janet Baker and said to her, slightly star-struck, "Thank you for everything." She smiled, leaned forward, and gave me a kiss, and then sniffed me. "You smell divine, what is that?" she asked. "Oh, something by Tom Ford. What's yours?" I responded. The Dame twinkled. "I'm 90. It's formaldehyde!"

What is worth preserving in our society, and not always in formaldehyde! What are the values, principles, ideas, places, traditions and so on that are worth holding on to or adapting for some new purpose? We may think we want to see many things remain the same and not be lost in a world where there is constant change, but one of the challenges we all face is having a belief in tradition that doesn't make us hide-bound, or clinging to the past that means we are unable to get a hold of the present or welcome the future.

When I began my ministry in 1987 there was a concern then that when the generation who had served in World War One died out, future generations would no longer see the need to

commemorate Remembrance-tide. The British Legion, and others, worked hard to ensure that all conflicts, not only two World Wars, were remembered, and that Remembrance was not to be seen as a glorification of war, but a more subtle call for the persistent need for peace. This was very much the focus in 2018 when the centenary of the ending of World War One was recalled. I have also seen across the country, and in our community, a determination not to 'preserve' the season of

Remembrance, but to embrace it and adapt it so that its message of remembering past sacrifice and working for present peace is passed on to every new generation. Not only veterans from past conflicts, who served on the front line and the home front, but younger people who look at the ongoing need for peace

with justice in all areas of our society. In the painful present with Ukraine, Israel-Palestine, Sudan and South Sudan, and other parts of the globe, this commitment to a wider peace remains poignantly necessary.

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning



KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in October:

Outreach Committee – Kim Milne Convener reported -

Review of Charities & Yearly Financial Commitment for 2023:

Edinburgh Clothing Store: £1,500

The PAD Project: £1,500

Morningside Parish Church: Open ended sum

New Charity: Due to Covid and the lack of fundraising opportunities, the commitment to the PAD Project had been extended for another year but now it is time to take on a new charity. Kim invited Session to submit to her suggestions for the replacement of the Pad Project. She reminded Session that the usual pattern had been to have one overseas project but other more local suggestions would be welcomed for consideration by the committee. Funds held at 30.08.23 total: £844.35. The total distributions made in 2023 were £6,982.98, as follows:

The Edinburgh Clothing Store (£2,830.89);

The PAD Project (£2,830.88);

Morningside Parish Church (£1,321.21).

Once the Committee is in receipt of Tea & Coffee funds and the annual accounts have been finalised, a distribution will be made in respect of 2023.

WSPP PAD Project Update: - In October 2022 Marion Tasker updated Kim with the news that funds issued in 2022 meant the 'Gambia Pad Project' was set in motion, with the purchase of new material. Marion Tasker was to visit the Gambia in the New Year to deliver the project and estimated that she would be able to provide pads for about 600 girls. Funds distributed in March 2023 were to be used to buy more material and this time they could afford to buy new electric sewing machines for the Gambian Pad Project. They

also very much appreciated that extension of an extra year's support.

Property – Moira Clark Convener - reported a recent focus on updating compliance requirements, which included: the fire drill which had preceded the Session meeting and will be repeated for other users; the emergency lighting tests to be carried out next week; lighting systems were done; PAT testing had been completed, the Electrical Installation Consolidation Report had been brought forward to early 2024 because there had been additional installations; fire alarm system to be tested possibly next week. Very high roof inspections had partly been completed and minor slate and gutter repairs carried out. However, the very high roof South East elevation inspection was still outstanding.

The works to remedy the roof leak had only been partially successful. The additional down pipe was successfully installed and sealant applied. Further water tests had been carried out which were generally successful and light rainfall poses no problem but heavy downpours as recently experienced result in huge amounts of water from the church roof and cause water ingress. The architect indicated in May that if the works carried out were not successful, he would give the matter further thought in consultation with the contractor. Moira was concerned that the consequence of these consultations might involve further material expense. In the meantime, the finalisation of the replacement of the panelling in the South corridors has been paused.

Cleaning - the re-appointment of an external cleaning firm has started and a significant improvement has been noted. The cleaners work in the early morning to 8.00am to allow an overlap with the caretakers' start time. The caretakers retain responsibility for the cleaning of the sanctuary and for any spot cleaning needed during opening hours. It was stressed that the caretakers had done a good job and saved the church money during the

period of the Covid pandemic and its aftermath when the contract cleaners were not employed but with extra work required with the return of multiple lets it was not possible for the caretakers alone to retain cleaning standards.

Review of the Roll – Fiona Stewart, Roll Keeper, advised that since the last Session there had been no changes and the roll stands at 350.

Presbytery Elders' Report – Robert Armour, Equalising Elder, reported that Presbytery returned from the summer break to the first of a cascade of demissions and unions that will be coming up in the last quarter of 2023.

The September meeting saw unions approved for Bathgate High and Bathgate St Johns: and for Fauldhouse St Andrews and Harthill St Andrews. We also saw demissions from the Ministers of St Giles, Currie, Kirknewton and East Calder, St David's Broomhouse and Linlithgow St Ninian's Craigmalen.

Presbytery approved a proposal to allow St Giles to charge visitors for entry. The burden of maintaining an historic national cathedral, which is a grade A medieval building as well as a major visitor attraction, puts a huge strain on the congregation. Unlike Glasgow Cathedral, it is not maintained by Historic Environment Scotland and visitors, though growing in numbers, are not always generous with donations. The insurance bill alone is £130,000 and the maintenance burden huge. So, like many cathedrals south of the border it is introducing a visitor entry charge.

Discussing the Presbytery Mission Plan, national guidance on drafting the documentation for unions had been issued as well as a guide on practical considerations

prepared by Deployment committee. The report covered the need to get approvals from various national church bodies and also, as a result, the timescales involved in approving unions and the difficulty in making changes to the plan outside the annual plan review process.

Nevertheless, plan implementation is progressing. Three manses were being put up for sale. An associate minister post for Greyfriars was approved, reflecting the gap being created by the retiral of the current minister and his two assistants.

Any Other Competent Business – Wednesday Club - Charles Wilson reported that the Wednesday Club, which has been run by the church for almost 67 years, was in danger of having to close following the withdrawal of transport funded by the Council. As the Club receives no funding and is purely reliant on donations it was deemed that there were insufficient monies in the Club funds to provide transport. If this decision had had to be taken, it would have been with a heavy heart as for some of the men it is their only night out of the week. However, two generous anonymous benefactors have come forward to provide funding for the transport which will enable the Club to meet once a month from now until the end of its session in April.

The club formerly benefited from a retiring collection after the June communion and Session agreed that this should be reinstated. The club formerly received a grant from a restricted church fund and Session agreed that Charles Wilson and the Treasurer should investigate. It was noted that the club would continue to benefit from the donations received at the Telephone Choir Christmas concert.

WORSHIP NOTES

All Saints – Sunday 5 November

Though not generally observed by the Church of Scotland until more recent times, All Saints Day is an ancient Christian festival which has its roots in the Early Middle Ages. From the fourth century, feasts commemorating Christian martyrs were held in various places and on various dates near Easter and Pentecost. In the ninth century some churches in Britain began holding the commemoration of all saints on or around 1 November. The Christian celebration of All Saints' Day stems from the developed belief that it is helpful to remember those in heaven, the 'Church triumphant', the living, the 'Church militant' and the 'Church penitent'.

The Reformed tradition to which the Church of Scotland belongs does not believe that 'saints' have any powers in daily life, and that prayers to God are directed only through God's Son, Jesus Christ. The season, sitting generally within a time of remembrance, gives us an opportunity to remember and give thanks for those 'saints' who have helped shape the life of faith, and our own lives.

In English-speaking countries services often include the singing of the traditional hymn, 'For all the saints' by Walsham How. The most familiar tune for this hymn is *Sine Nomine* by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

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

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The next communion service will be on Sunday 3 December, which is also the first Sunday of Advent.



COFFEE MORNING - SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

The Edinburgh Clothing Store (Charity Number SC039409) is holding its eleventh annual Coffee Morning – with a variety of stalls – on Saturday 18 November from 10.00am-12.00. After last year's most successful Coffee Morning ever which was held in the Sanctuary of Morningside Parish Church it has been decided to do the same this year.

Coffee and cream scones will be served, as before, at tables in the centre of the Sanctuary with Stalls at the front and at the sides. This year, a few more tables will be set to accommodate all who would like to come. The Sanctuary provides more space and height and everyone seemed to appreciate the beauty of the interior of the church and found it much easier to move around.

Tickets priced £5 for adults and £2 for children can be bought from ECS helpers or at the door.

All the volunteers who run the Clothing Store want this to be another huge success as the numbers of clients referred for help have increased noticeably. At the same time, inflation has increased our running costs. In addition, a couple of our most regular and generous supporters have ceased to exist, which obviously has impacted on our income. We, therefore, have to make this event a huge success.

Please come to meet up with friends from across the city, and help us to make this event both very enjoyable and very successful.

GIFT SERVICE - SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

By popular demand, the Gift Service at 10.30am on 19 November is once again to be for the Edinburgh Clothing Store. Every year the congregation has been amazingly generous in its donations to the Clothing Store. We have been extremely grateful for the generosity which has been shown by the donations both of new clothes for children and of money which have allowed us to buy items which are in short supply



Because of the increase in referrals, we are in desperate need for warm winter clothes for children who are living in abject poverty in our city. The need seems to increase each year.

On the two Sundays prior to 19 November, labels will be laid out on two tables at the back of the church. Each label will have an item of clothing and the age of the boy or girl to whom this item will go. If you would like to give a gift, we are offering 4 options.

Option 1 – Please take one or more labels
Buy an appropriate item or items
Attach the label or labels

Bring on Sunday 19 November to the tables below the pulpit before the 10.30am service

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS

Option 2 - If you cannot come to church on 19 November but can on the 12 November, please bring your gift(s) to the box below the elders' pigeon holes.

Option 3 - If you cannot come to church on either Sunday, contact Fiona Gossip who is once again very kindly willing to collect items from your home. She can be contacted on 07850 338 908 in November from Monday – Friday between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm or e mail her at fiona.gossip@outlook.com.

Option 4 - If you prefer not to go shopping, cash or cheque donations are also most welcome. Please make cheques payable to The Edinburgh Clothing Store and send to 7 Greenbank Crescent. If you wish to Gift Aid your donations, please include a note with your name and address and post code. State that you are a taxpayer and sign the note.

I cannot tell you how much difference your generosity has made in the past and how excited the children are to receive new clothes which they really need. This year, more than ever before, there is a huge need.

Thank you so much in anticipation.

Fiona Stimpson



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers:

Mr Norman Ross who died on 4 October 2023.

HARVEST 2023 APPEAL



To borrow the well-known phrase regarding The Three Rs, and then paraphrase it to Three Cs: I would like to say that this year's Harvest Appeal exemplifies Morningside Parish Church's Care, Kindness and Compassion for others. Joking apart, we, as a Congregation, have, once again, stepped up to the plate and made a huge, and significant, contribution to the South East Edinburgh Foodbank's efforts, to help support

people who are in dire need to be able to feed themselves and their families in these troubled times. Indeed, our efforts are all the more meaningful because of the troubled times we all find ourselves in, displaying true compassion to others.

What was very noticeable this year was the colossal combined fusion of many, many people in our Church working together as an integrated team, with one goal in mind. The people who responded to the intimations in the orders of service, the magazine article and Minute for Mission, by donating produce, helping to take it in, arrange a display of all that was donated, stacking it and then storing it prior to transporting it the next day to Southhouse Broadway: this only happened because of sterling work by a huge number of volunteers, to whom a simple Thank You All seems a little inadequate.

The joy, however, of the co-ordinator and staff at the foodbank on seeing box after box of our contributions certainly made it all worthwhile to ensure the continued support to those most in need.

Equally, we cannot forget those who chose to make significant financial donations directly to the foodbank and we thank you all too.

Sincere, genuine, and heartfelt thanks to you all.



FLOWER COMMITTEE

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
Nov	5	Ian Hastie	Irene Wilson
	12	Remembrance Sunday	Ruth Henderson
	19	Liz Munro	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
	26	George & Evelyn McHollan	Karen Keil
Dec	3	Catriona & Bill Reid	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson



The new flower list for 2024 is now available on the vestibule noticeboard. If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date. The cost remains at £45. Cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund' or payment can be made by bank transfer if preferred. 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 have registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be given to a member of the Committee, put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office clearly marked for the Flower Fund. Please contact me on 0131 449 2866; e-mail: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com if you require details to make a bank transfer.

Do you have a talent for, or would like to try your hand at, flower arranging? We are always delighted to welcome new members to join our team - men are also most welcome if they have an artistic flair. If you would like to join us, or want to come along and see what it entails, please speak to myself or any other members of the Flower Committee on a Sunday morning. Training and guidance can be given if required.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORNINGSIDE FROM 1800 TO 1930



Bob Cunningham gave an excellent illustrated talk on The Development of Morningside from 1800 to 1930 last month. So many folks came that we almost ran out of chairs, 95 in all. Those who attended were amazingly generous and we took in £336 all of which will go towards funding a fourth year of our Morningside Hope project.

We are very grateful to Bob for sharing his time and in-depth knowledge, the talk left us hungry for more!

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. For more details, just contact our Pastoral Assistant, Jacqui Lindsay, on: 07834 364 628 or e-mail: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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.

November: Friday 3, Monday 13, Friday 24

December: Monday 4, Friday 15

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES

Dementia friendly but **open to all 60+**. The class will last 40-45 minutes, followed by tea, coffee and the chance to chat.

Held on Mondays in the Cluny Hall 2-4pm

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

November 15 December 13

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

We offer 4 or 5 dementia friendly concerts each year. Open to all, this will be a varied programme. November will see two concerts:

Saturday 25 November at 3pm will feature the **Rock Choir**

Sunday 26th November at 3pm will feature **George Heriot's Chamber Choir**



Entry is by donation – all welcome!

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

MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERT SEPTEMBER 2023

At the end of September, we were delighted to engage in a joint project with Heart for Art for our latest Dementia Friendly concert featuring a return visit from the string quartet who played for us last year, now aptly named 'Heart Strings' for this special occasion. The combination of arts was very potent we had an excellent audience to share 'the experience'. The accomplished string players are all former members of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and play together regularly in Glasgow and in Edinburgh. The artistic background of the beautiful Heart for Art Exhibition served as a fitting enhancement to the beauty of the music.

The varied programme ranged from light classics to Dvorak's American String Quartet, something for everyone to enjoy. The players introduced the works being performed with appropriate chat and audience engagement with a competition thrown in for good measure. Popular classics included a lively Mozart Divertimento and JS's Bach's Air on a G string with a beautifully



resonant solo violin. A Rodriguez Tango had the audience foot tapping and then joining in with the fun of Funiculi Funicula. JS Bach's Brandenburg concerto no 3 included the 'competition' where audience members were asked to count the number of 'ritornelli' or 'return themes' which they could hear in this contrapuntal masterpiece. This was won, with no cheating, by the perceptive Church Minister who kindly donated his 'prize' to the harvest tables on display! The encore was a rather special arrangement of the Irish folk tune 'Danny Boy', a fitting ending to a wonderful afternoon.

The post-concert refreshments were welcome and greatly enjoyed by the large audience and performers. We hope to build on this success in our future concerts. Please encourage friends and family to attend. Our grateful thanks to all the hardworking catering staff and caretakers. In addition, our gratitude to all the church staff and stewards, the Minister for his warm welcome and conclusion, Douglas Paterson for his excellent photography and the Tor Foundation for invaluable support. We were delighted to welcome a Trustee from the Tor Foundation to our concert.

Our next concerts are double value with two concerts over the last weekend in November. The first will feature the exciting Rock Choir on Saturday 25 November and the second, on Sunday 26 November, will feature a return visit by George Heriot's School Chamber Choir, who delighted us last year. Please note both concerts will start slightly later at 3 pm and are not to be missed. Some early seasonal music will be included.

Thank you for all the support we have received to date, and we look forward to seeing you again for our November concerts.

Jennifer Rimer

MORNINGSIDE ART EXHIBITION

On 23 September we had our first ever Art Exhibition to showcase and celebrate the wonderful art works that members of our Heart for Art group, who meet every Tuesday in the St Matthews' Hall, have produced over the last year. It ran concurrently with our Doors Open and Harvest Weekend that also featured our String Quartet concert – a busy weekend indeed!

Hundreds of people had the chance to view and enjoy these works of art and the artists themselves were

justifiably proud of what they had achieved. Our special thanks need to go to Paula Pinda, our resident art therapist who heads up the group and organised the exhibition. Paula also spoke very

eloquently at our Sunday Service that weekend about the power of art to enhance the lives of those living with dementia along with their families and carers. Thank you too to everyone who came along and supported, viewed, listened. Such events would not be the success that this one was without the faithful ongoing support that you offer – so thank you all very much.



Photographs:

Top: Bob Reekie and his painting

Middle: Daniel Goddard and his painting

Bottom: The Minister and Paula Pinda, art therapist at the sales table.



AN AFTERNOON OF TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH MUSIC



Nigel's All Stars came to entertain us once again on 16 October. The group were 9 strong, each with a different instrument and offered us an hour of traditional Scottish music, even some that we could sing along to.

It was a really lovely afternoon and we were delighted that the musicians were able to stay and enjoy tea, cake and a chat with us all afterwards.

LIFE + WORK - NOVEMBER 2023

Remembrance

'A privilege to follow God's call': an insight into the lives of chaplains to the armed forces

Remembrance prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly

'Guild Needs to Change'

A report from the Annual Gathering of the Church of Scotland Guild

New Minister for Sanctuary First

A change of leadership at the Church's online worshipping community

A Deeper Understanding

An Episcopalian priest reflects on his experience working for the Church of Scotland in Fife

'Life is Still Good'

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson reflects on the challenges of ageing.

Whispering and Proclaiming

Ruth Harvey considers the messages of Matthew 10.

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Scott Brown reflects on the value of rural ministry

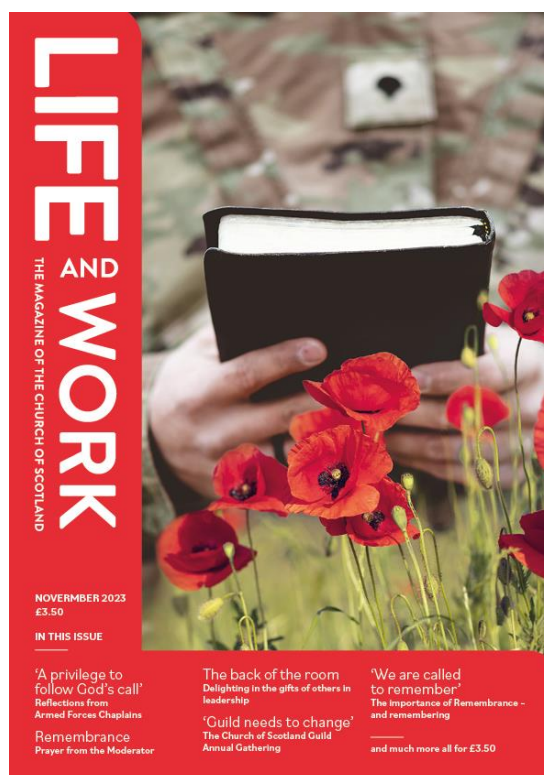
Regulars

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



DECEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the December issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 17 November 2023** and it will be available by Sunday 3 December. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk . Please note there is no magazine in January.

Perhaps (1916)

*Perhaps some day the sun will shine again,
And I shall see that still the skies are blue.
And feel once more I do not live in vain,
Although bereft of You.*

*Perhaps the golden meadows at my feet
Will make the sunny hours of Spring seem
gay.
And I shall find the white May blossoms
sweet,
Though You have passed away.*

*Perhaps the summer woods will shimmer
bright,
And crimson roses once again be fair,
And autumn harvest fields a rich delight,
Although You are not there.*

*Perhaps some day I shall not shrink in
pain
To see the passing of the dying year,
And listen to Christmas songs again,
Although You cannot hear.*

Vera Brittain

*But, though kind Time may many joys renew,
There is one greatest joy I shall not know
Again, because my heart for loss of You
Was broken, long ago.*

*(Vera Brittain served as a VAD nurse
(Voluntary Aid Detachment) during World War
One. Her fiancé (to whom this poem was
dedicated) and her brother were both killed in
action. Vera Brittain was the mother of the
politician Shirley Williams).*



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

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