



Magazine

No. 191 May 2024

Dear Friends

The month of May contains a number of events – the General Assembly (18th – 23rd) sees the Church of Scotland gathering on the Mound in the Assembly Hall to discuss important matters relating to the life of the Church. We will be joined by other denominations from across Britain, and other churches from across the world.

May also has three important Church Calendar events. The Ascension of Jesus, (on Thursday 9th May but will be marked on Sunday 12th), Pentecost, the day marking the gift of the Holy Spirit, (Sunday 19th May) and Trinity (Sunday, 26th May).

Church Calendar (or Festival) events put a spotlight on different aspects of Bible stories, or events in the life of the Church. They help us to question, wonder about and note stories which we can take as literal, or as parables, but recognising that they highlight something worth thinking about when it comes to our faith. They can open windows of understanding or believing, but they can rarely be taken at face value. I suspect the questions we should be asking are several notches above, “how could this happen?” and more in the realms of, “why did someone think this was important to notice, and what might it tell us about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the life of faith?”

I came late to the concept of the ‘Church Year’, being satisfied with Christmas, Easter

and Pentecost. But these other festivals have added colour, texture and poetic imagination to my faith, expanding my thinking and my experiencing, using words, music, pictures to enrich faith.

We have an unusual **Ascension** window in our Church, in the south transept. Look out for it as you go through to the halls from the Church. It’s paired with a window depicting the Crucifixion. The dead Jesus, and the ascending Jesus. The ‘finished’ Jesus, and the ‘continuing’ Jesus. Juxtaposed, what might be the message of these images?



Pentecost – the feast of the Holy Spirit – seen in the red velvet pulpit fall. But evidence of God’s Spirit is also in the ‘fabric’ of the life of our congregation and the wider church. Our work and our witness is woven into who we are: a fire bringing warmth and light; a wind bringing change.

Trinity – the perplexing union of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Whose actions include creation, redemption, and sustaining. Ways to understand Who God is and what God does.

The month of May, a busy month of doing, thinking, questioning and believing.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

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

WORSHIP NOTES

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be shared on Sunday 2 June at 9.30am and 10.30am in the Church. At the 10.30am service, the Minister will conduct the service, and we will welcome back as our guest preacher the Revd Dr Conor Fegan, Minister of Markinch in Fife. Conor spent his probationary period with us during the Covid Pandemic, and consequently hardly ever got to see the whole congregation during his time because of Lockdown. It will be good to welcome him back to preach.

Choral Evensong

The choir will present a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday 9 June. Details elsewhere in the magazine. Collection goes towards funding choir scholars.

Home Communion

Throughout the year the Minister is happy to bring Home Communion to members of the congregation who are not able to attend the communion services in the Church. The short service concentrates on the communion part of the normal communion service, and many people have found it a real comfort and encouragement, particularly being 'involved' in the spiritual side of our congregation's life.

If you, or anyone you know, would like Home Communion, please contact the Minister and he will arrange a visit.



FLOWER LIST

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
May	5	Trudi Ferrier	Irene Wilson
	12	Charles & Kerry Watt	Karen Keil
	19	Eleanor Watt	Eleanor Watt
	26	Marie Ogilvie	Ruth Henderson



The cost is £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 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.

The Flower Committee would like to express its thanks to Walter Thomson who has refurbished the flower pedestals, the metal baskets of which sadly disintegrated during lockdown. The new baskets are made of wood with a plastic lining so shouldn't rust as the metal ones did. The Flower Ladies will now have a choice of using either the vases or the flower pedestals.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

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

KIRK SESSION NOTES

The Kirk Session met in April:

New Cross in Braid Hall - Walter Thomson explained to Session the design symbolism of the oak cross he had made to hang in the Braid Hall. He said that "This Cross is unlike the Cross in the Sanctuary which was designed to reflect the Christian beliefs of [his late wife] Margaret and her mother. That cross was designed to be on the wall with the ends chamfered to appear to be coming out to meet you and was made of Scots Pine for her mother, who although born in Plymouth and with both her mother and father being English, she always maintained she was Scottish. This Cross however is designed to reflect the Christianity as practised by the congregation of this Church. It is not mounted on the wall but is mounted clear of the wall to be within the Church - like the congregation. It is made of oak which is a beautiful wood which is also very long lasting.



The stem of the cross represents our Christianity as practised by the congregation which like an oak tree grows up, spreads out and forward to shelter and protect us. The cross-member, like the congregation, reaches out widely from behind the stem of Christianity to give welcome to all people, whether of this Church or not. It is also curved round like giving a cuddle to show the compassion, comfort and love given to all. So having conceived of the cross, chosen the wood, designed, made, polished, mounted it, and explained the design to you, it only leaves the most difficult part for me which is to live up to your very high standards."

The Moderator thanked Walter for his generous and meaningful gift and then led the opening devotions with a prayer including the dedication of the cross.

Presbytery Reform – The Moderator advised that a meeting had taken place between ministerial representatives and the Session Clerks from each of MPC, Greenbank (GB) and Fairmilehead (FMH) and the Revd Stewart Weaver, Convenor (SW) and another member of the Deployment of Resources Committee (DRC) of the Presbytery. Subsequent to the Kirk Session meeting in April, an agreed statement for all three congregations was prepared by the Presbytery Committee, which has the benefit of including the discussions and understandings of all three Kirk Sessions, and also the response from the Presbytery's Deployment Committee:

On Thursday 4 April 2024 representatives from the Presbytery's Deployment Committee, tasked with overseeing the implementation of the approved Presbytery Mission Plan, met with representatives from Fairmilehead, Greenbank and Morningside.

Those present recognised the frustration and disappointment felt by the congregations. A significant amount of time has been spent testing possible options for local cooperation and it feels as if the congregations are simply starting again. All also expressed a certain vulnerability in the circumstances as a result of the uncertainty.

Concerns were expressed about the situation of St. John's Colinton Mains (SJCM). Where will they fit into the picture now that they are no longer required to take part in discussions with the three congregations? Congregational representatives clearly indicated that they wanted to have clarity on

the status of SJCM. If for some reason SJCM again participated in these discussions, then any intervening work and progress may be jeopardised. The Deployment reps agreed to take the issue to the Deployment Committee and seek the committee's confirmation that SJCM would not take part in future discussions involving the three congregations.

The possibilities open to the congregations are now limited. A Team Ministry is one option. This structure includes within it two or more Full Time Ministers of Word and Sacrament, one of which is designated as moderator of a united kirk session. Concerns were expressed about the practicality and viability of this option.

The other primary option would involve a two-way union and a parish grouping. A parish grouping is a structure of collaboration that allows congregations to continue as they are currently constituted but formalises mission cooperation. In this case, Greenbank and Morningside could unite and work together in a parish grouping with Fairmilehead or Greenbank and Fairmilehead could unite and work in a parish grouping with Morningside.

Two suggestions followed. All three sessions could discuss and agree criteria they would like included in any decision making process. And, should an option be pursued that included a parish grouping, it could be drawn up in a manner that ensured close cooperation.

Given the amount of work required for any of the options mentioned above, the congregational representatives also sought assurances that a locally paid minister could be employed. The Deployment representatives indicated that they would seek the support of the Deployment Committee.

The Deployment Committee met on 17 April and discussed the situation regarding SJCM and the issue of a locally employed minister. Deployment confirmed that SJCM will no longer be a part of the discussions with the three congregations and that other possibilities will be sought for SJCM. Deployment also confirmed its support for a locally paid post. Worries were expressed that a locally paid minister could then be drawn from a dwindling pool of ministers. It was recognised that, while Deployment could note this concern, it could not in fact prevent local congregations from doing so. Indeed, Deployment have already agreed locally appointed and paid ministers. The door is thus left open for these three congregations.

The congregational representatives will meet again with representatives from the Deployment Committee on Wednesday 15 May to continue the discussions. Given the time expended to get to this stage, there would now be some advantage to moving forward with purpose, focus and pace.

Property – Moira Clark, Convenor had circulated a detailed report of the wide range of necessary fabric expenditure in the year since she last reported. The largest items included:

- Installation of additional drainage at Braid Hall/ south aisle roof and ancillary works (£9,488.39);
- High level roof, gutters and lightning protection inspections (£1,862);
- Upgrade of intruder and fire alarms (£3,527.41);
- Stonework window repairs at the manse (£11,994);
- Servicing and repairs to acoustic walls (£1,305.60);
- New water heater in Kitchen (£1,890);
- Repairs to high roof (£10,238);
- Reinstatement of demolished gate pillar (£9,708 less £9,400 recovered from insurance);

Session thanked Moira and the Property Committee for the significant work that they oversee in the maintenance of the fabric of our properties.

Pastoral – Doreen Reekie Convenor reported that presently there are 10 visitors visiting 16 members of the congregation which includes some care home residents. A meeting of the visiting group was held last month, when the visitors gave updated reports on their visitees. They had been discussing whether, when visiting households where one partner is housebound, the visitor could allow the carer the chance to go out for shopping, dentist or hairdresser etc. The discussion is in its early stages, but will be continued.

Register of Persons Holding a controlled Interest in Land (RCI) Regulations 2021 – The Clerk advised that - The Scottish Parliament decided it wanted to create a Register to identify who actually owned land and no one could hide the identity of the true owner by putting the property in the name of trustees. The regulations require the name and details of every person or trustee who owns property for an unincorporated body to be registered. Churches are unincorporated bodies and every member of Session is a trustee, Initially, it was feared that every elder's details would have to be supplied and the Register kept up to date - a large enough task for each congregation to undertake and a massive undertaking nationwide.

This information was requested in spite of the fact that every congregation is a charity and already supplies key contact information to OSCR which is publicly available. In addition, the Church of Scotland has central administration offices in 121 George Street and every church displays on external notice boards their presence. Even just an exemption for churches would have been a significant reduction of administration in providing the initial information and keeping such a register up to date.

Significant effort had been put in by the national Church's Law Department to try, given the information was already publicly available, to have the regulations amended to exempt charities.

However, the national Church's Procurator has advised that if the title to church property is held in the name of the General Trustees, it is not caught by the Regulations. The good news for MPC is that the church is held in the name of the General Trustees but the Clerk's recollection from the time of its purchase is that the manse is not – it is held in the name of individuals as "trustees ex officii" i.e. whoever holds the offices of Minister, Session Clerk and Treasurer. For this reason, the value of the manse is included in the accounts but not the value of the church. Therefore, we will need to comply with the regulations in respect of the manse. The church legal department proposes three options as to how they can help –

1. they can supply information about the title-holding trustees so we can enter the details - but none of the present office holders was in post when the manse was bought.
2. they can send us the information for us to check and then make the necessary changes to the Register for us - a fee of £200
3. they can supply information about the property and title-holding trustees and we can engage a local solicitor to complete the necessary registration process.

The Clerk suggested and Session agreed that we adopt the second option as the simplest and most economic option.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - JOIN US FOR AFTERNOON TEA!

Saturday 13 July 2024, 2.30 – 4.30pm. Come along and enjoy an afternoon of home baking and relaxation. Tickets will be on sale on Sundays 23 and 30 June and 7 July (at a price to be confirmed).

If you require someone to pick you up, please let us know when buying your ticket and we will do our best to arrange this.



CURRENCY FOR CHRISTIAN AID

We are approaching the season of Christian Aid which traditionally fund raises in the week of 12 May. Christian Aid helps vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. It is involved in emergency response, helping refugees, peace-building, health, women's rights, human rights and justice and helping communities adapt to climate change. There are lots of ways to get involved from individual challenges to prayer and campaigning. Have a look at the Christian Aid Week website and please take part. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

This year, as a one off, we want to try an additional collection with a difference. Foreign currency. Coins and notes, dimes and dollars, rand and rupees, pounds and pesos, euros and escudos, krone and kwacha, yen and yuan.

Most of us have come back from a foreign holiday with a pocketful of coins and a selection of notes. And these hide in a drawer awaiting our next trip to the same country. But some venues are now off limits and travel has generally become more expensive since it opened up post pandemic. So we're asking you to release the foreign currency in your drawer and to put it to good use today. If you're honest, some of those coins and notes are unlikely to be used again or maybe the country has perhaps changed its currency or denominations. Either way, you won't miss it and it goes to a good home.

During May we are asking you to hand in your spare foreign currency. Please bag it separately but put it in the plate for the small change offering as you enter the Church. As there will probably be many denominations we will process it separately from the normal collection. And please consider donating notes as well as coins.

The money collected will go to Christian Aid. There is something particularly appropriate about using foreign currency to provide aid to the poorest parts of the world. So will you dig deep in that drawer for those rials, rubles and ringitand any other redundant notes and coins for a good cause.

You can also support Christian Aid by attending the coffee morning in Morningside Parish Church Halls on Saturday 18 May between 10am and midday. Entry £5 includes refreshments. Tickets available from Evelyn Henderson or at the door.

WEDNESDAY CLUB FOR THE DISABLED

Shortly before the start of the session last year, the City of Edinburgh Council advised us that they would no longer be providing the transport for the Wednesday Club. After contacting various other transport providers, arrangements were made with Pilton Equalities Project to provide our transport. Owing to the costs involved this has meant that the Club could only meet monthly, instead of weekly as it did previously.

Thanks to very generous donations from two members of the Congregation and the monies raised by the Telephone Choir at their Christmas Carol Concert, we were able to cover our costs for the current year.

We are now looking at whether we will be able to provide outings for the members over the summer, and indeed whether the Club will be able to continue next Session which is all dependent on being able to source funding.

A retiring collection will be held following the Communion services on Sunday 2 June which will hopefully go some way to offsetting our costs going forward.

Charles Wilson, MBE
Coordinator

LIFE + WORK – MAY 2024

General Assembly 2024: Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Dr Shaw Paterson
Reports to the Assembly
Timetables

'It's Not About Status': the Lord Lyon, Joe Morrow, discusses his role in the Assembly ceremonials

'Dignity, Freedom and Hope': Christian Aid Week 2024

A Gift to the Church: The editors of a new supplement to the Church Hymnary reflect on how the book took shape.

Our Presbyteries: The Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian

'My Eyes Have Been Opened': Rebekka Read, a Young Adult Volunteer serving in New York, reflects on her experience

View from the Pulpit: The Rev Neil Glover on the challenges of rural ministry and how 'God always gives enough'.

Regulars

The Very Rev Dr Martin Fair on ministry recruitment

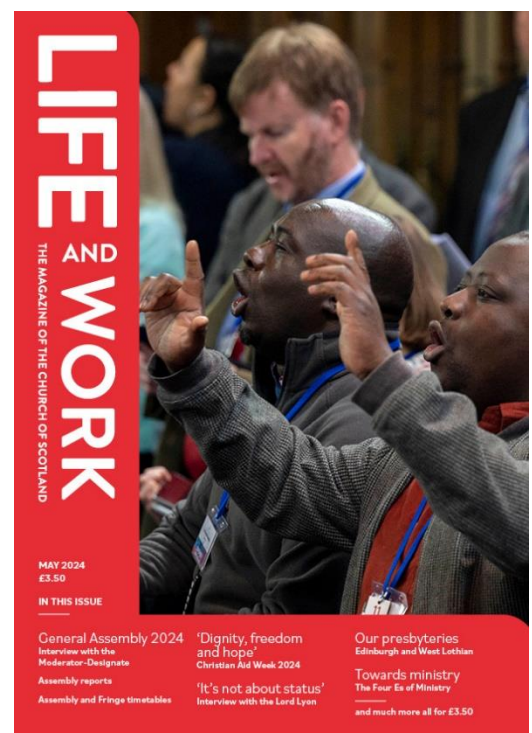
Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Bible Study by the Very Rev Dr Colin Sinclair

My Church: Elizabeth Pennykid, Session Clerk of Kirknewton and East Calder Parish Church

If you would like to order a print or digital copy of the magazine (£3.50 and £2.99 respectively) please visit the website www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe .





Morningside Hope



This is the umbrella name for the projects made possible by the generous grant received from TOR Christian Foundation and additional funding from the church itself.

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

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

Annual Art Exhibition: Saturday 30 November



MUSIC AND MEMORIES: workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers, held in the Cluny Hall, 2- 4pm.

May: Monday 13 Friday 31

June: Monday 10 Friday 28

July: Monday 8 Monday 22

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

6 & 20 May

3 & 17 June

No classes in July or August

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

15 May

19 June

No games July & August

ANIMAL AFTERNOONS: Wednesday 8 May Alpacas 2pm

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS – open to everyone

Next concert: Saturday 25 May, 2pm **Traditional Scots** music.

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 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 PONIES CAME!

And what a wonderful afternoon it was. We had babies in buggies and great grandmas in wheelchairs and everyone else in between. Each person left with a huge smile on their face. Little ones were able to sit astride the little ponies, who came dressed not only in nappies but also little booties! My own personal favourite was watching as, tethered to a wheelchair, one of the ponies trotted alongside the chair as it was wheeled round doing circuits of the hall, much to the

occupant's and everyone else's delight. We had a full hall, and no one was in a hurry to leave.

We had a group of about fifteen who joined us from Cluny Lodge. One of the staff who came with them wrote later:

I just wanted to say a Huge Thank You to you all for such a wonderful day yesterday. Our Residents here at Cluny Lodge had a very special day out indeed. We all appreciate this enormously.

Best Wishes, Michael

Thank you to all who supported the event and to all who helped.



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers:

David Calder, who died on 28 April 2024:

PASTORAL TRAINING COURSE

Our most recent Pastoral training went really well. We had 17 participants in all so more than our full cohort. There were members from 6 different churches including our own, which was great.

On the course we looked at topics such as:

- Communication & listening skills.
- Self-awareness & self-care
- Boundaries and why they matter.
- Dementia

We always ask for feedback from participants, and these were some of the comments that we got:

“Course was very informative and sharing with others was invaluable. Very happy to connect at later course.”

“Thanks for an enjoyable, comfortable, informative course and thank you to those who provided supper”.

“Well organised, supportive and non- threatening! Nice to have supper and coffee, fine to chat”.

“Would recommend this course to others”.

If you are interested in attending this course, we plan to run it again in the Spring of 2025.

Jacqui Lindsay



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WITH MORNINGSIDE HOPE- HELP NEEDED!

It's hard to believe that we are already in the third year of our Morningside Hope project. It has been amazing to have the TOR funding in place and all the support from the church itself. TOR funding sadly finishes at the end of December and so we are beginning to look at ways to fund the next three years. **The sum being sought in relation to future funding for the next few years is in the region of £60-70,000.**

If you know of any Trusts or Grant making bodies that we might apply to, any businesses that might be interested in sponsoring certain parts of the project or any generous benefactors who might be open to partnering with us, please let me know. Together we have begun to build a project that is having a very real and positive impact on many lives in our church, parish and beyond. Pulling the funding together for the coming three years is our next challenge.

Please get in touch if you have any thoughts or ideas, I would be really grateful.

07834 364 628

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Jacqui Lindsay

COME AND MEET THE ALPACAS

- Returning by Popular Demand!

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

With that in mind, we have arranged a very special return 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:
Wednesday 8th May in the St Matthews Hall, 2 - 3pm.
Teas and coffees will then be served for those wishing to stay on for a bit and chat.

Entry is by donation - all donations will go towards our Morningside Hope Project.



Jacqui Lindsay (07834 364 628)



MUSICAL NOTES – CHORAL EVENSONG

I think that we would all agree that our Choral Scholars add much to our worship, Sunday by Sunday, and (to say the least) "give value for money." (They, in turn, gain that most important thing for musicians, experience; but that is another matter...) In the magazine over the last few months, most of them have told

you a little bit about themselves and you will have read what multi-talented young people they are.

Last June, we presented a service of Choral Evensong (that most satisfying of all acts of worship), the idea being to "show what we can do", AND to raise money for the following year's scholarships. It was, all round, a very happy occasion and a great success. We have a similar event planned for **Sunday 9 June at 7.30 pm.**- the last Sunday our scholars will be with us for this year. Do please come to this service, and show all our lovely young scholars how much we have appreciated them.

MW

JAM, BAKING AND MAKING

It would be much appreciated if plastic boxes used for shortbread and tray bakes could be returned to my pigeon hole.

Thank you

Joan McKenzie

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

JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 17 May 2024** and it will be available by Sunday 2 June. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk or left in her church pigeonhole. **Please note that there are no magazines in July or August**

Excerpt from CHILDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE by Lord Byron

*I have not loved the world, nor the world
me,—
But let us part fair foes; I do believe,
Though I have found them not, that there may
be
Words which are things,—hopes which will not
deceive,
And virtues which are merciful, nor weave
Snares for the falling: I would also deem
O'er others' griefs that some sincerely grieve;
That two, or one, are almost what they
seem,—
That goodness is no name, and happiness no
dream.
My daughter! with thy name this song
begun—
My daughter! with thy name this much shall
end—
I see thee not, I hear thee not,—but none*

*Can be so wrapt in thee; thou art the friend
To whom the shadows of far years extend:
Albeit my brow thou never shouldst behold,
My voice shall with thy future visions blend,
And reach into thy heart, when mine is cold,—
A token and a tone, even from thy father's
mould.
To aid thy mind's development,—to watch
Thy dawn of little joys,—to sit and see
Almost thy very growth,—to view thee catch
Knowledge of objects, wonders yet to thee!
To hold thee lightly on a gentle knee,
And print on thy soft cheek a parent's kiss,—
This, it should seem, was not reserved for me
Yet this was in my nature:—As it is,
I know not what is there, yet something like to
this.*

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