



Magazine

No. 193 September 2024

Dear Friends

Alongside our ongoing Stewardship campaign where we are addressing the recurring need of all congregations to review their giving (thank you to those who have responded so far), the Kirk Session at its June meeting looked at compiling a compendium of the different jobs and volunteering that are done around our Church. It will be helpful to have go-to job descriptions for all sorts of reasons.

As I sat down to draft what I was looking for, it became very clear very quickly just how much is done by volunteers around the life of our church. Alongside our deeply appreciated church staff who also add so much to the texture and shape of congregational life, so many volunteers are at work in so many areas of the Church. People on door duty to welcome, the rotas for coffee, the Baby and Toddler Group, Sunday Club and crèche, Sunday morning readers, the children who say the opening prayer, magazine editor, car rota, flower arrangers, Morningside Hope helpers, concert advertisers, choir members, to say nothing of the Session Clerk, Treasurer, elders on the Kirk Session, visiting group and so many more.



The metric by which we measure a congregation's life can be set in many ways. Numbers attending and money donated are but two. But the real heart of a congregation, which is the way I think we should always measure a Church's life, is its people. In a world where people have many choices throughout the week, and especially on Sundays, it is a sign of good health that we still have so many working

together in our shared life. Of course there could be more, and there is always room for more, don't wait to be asked! But looking out Sunday by Sunday, and dropping in to the Church during the week I see what God is enabling us to do within

our parish and community. We are not a bubble isolated from the lives of those who live around us, or a closed club where only a privileged few are welcome. We are a parish church, and our doors, and hearts, are open.

To all of you who help in whatever way, great or small, my heartfelt thanks. And to all of you who would like to come forward to help, in great ways or small, my heartfelt thanks in advance!

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in June:

Wednesday Club Finances - Charles Wilson reported that a small grant of £1,130 has been secured from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Edinburgh and three smaller local lodges which meet in Morningside towards the club's summer outings. The Club is very appreciative of the time and effort incurred by Jacqui Lindsay in securing this funding. The retiring collection after the June communion amounted to £217 and since Session last met an anonymous donation of £1500 and two further donations amounting to £50 have been received. Together with the Holiday Grant of £800 approved by Session this will allow the Club to proceed with the proposed summer outings and provide some working capital for the winter session. The funding of the winter session will be augmented by donations from the Christmas Tree Festival and the Telephone Choir concert which should allow the Club to meet once per month from October to April. Looking forward, the Club will have to source external funding to continue the services it provides.

Presbytery Reform – The Moderator introduced the main item of business which was the proposal concerning the *possibilities* of a future union with Greenbank Parish Church and the formation of a Parish Grouping between the union and Fairmilehead Parish Church. The proposal came from a small working group which has representatives from the three churches and the Presbytery's Deployment Committee.

The Moderator described that, in essence, the suggested proposal was;

- a union between MPC and GB;
- one governing body (a Kirk Session) to govern the united congregation with the possibility of a revamp of the committee structure;
- the Kirk Session to be moderated by Dr Browning
- a local appointment (who could be a minister but an employee) to be made by the new Kirk Session with responsibilities in Greenbank and Morningside, exact duties to be discussed;
- Morningside and Greenbank union – both buildings to be retained;
- Fairmilehead to be associated in a parish grouping, but not part of the union;
- *(St John's Colinton Mains Parish Church will be placed in a different grouping, so no longer a part of this proposal.)*

The Moderator stressed that the proposal was from the local group and had not been either to Presbytery or the National Church for approval. He also stressed that this proposal would have to be discussed and agreed by the Greenbank and Fairmilehead Kirk Sessions as the possible basis for future discussions. This may well be only the beginning of our discussions and there was still some considerable way to go, and the Moderator stressed that what was proposed was *not* a decision. Bearing all this in mind, and very conscious of the sensitivities around this topic for all three congregations, the Moderator then invited Session to vote on the proposal and possibilities set out in the paper on Deployment and it received the unanimous support of Session as a possible way to begin to move forward.

Stewardship & Finance – Robert Armour, convener, showed to Session the large bag of mixed foreign coin and notes donated for Christian Aid by local congregations. The various denominations will now be counted and the amount raised identified and passed to Christian Aid.

WORSHIP NOTES

9.30am Early Services resume on Sunday 1 September in the Cluny Hall. This half hour service allows for a more reflective time of worship, where responsive prayers and a short talk help us focus on the theme for the day.

We currently have two pianists who help provide the music at this service and we are looking for more to help share the responsibility. If you, or someone you know, might like to help, please contact the Minister.

Harvest Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 29 September. This will be an all-age service. We will have our usual appeal for goods for the South East Edinburgh Foodbank.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be shared on Sunday 8 October at 9.30am and 10.30am in the Church.

AUTUMN LECTURES: QUESTIONS FOR OUR TIME

The joint Autumn lectures will be held in **Greenbank Parish Church** this year. We will be looking at three controversial and emotive subjects. Refreshments will be served at 6.30pm and the lectures will begin at 7pm.

Sunday 8 Sept: Joy Gillespie, Survivors of Human Trafficking

Sunday 15 Sept: Revd Dr Liam Fraser - Assisted Dying

Sunday 22 Sept: Revd Neil Glover - Finding our voice, searching for renewal in the mainline Church

Neil Glover has recently published a book, *Finding our Voice – searching for renewal in the mainline church* which is well worth reading. (ISBN: 9781800830516, Saint Andrew Press, £19.99)



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT WILL BE WITH US IN SEPTEMBER

This year Fairtrade Fortnight is taking place from 9 to 22 September, as part of the 30th anniversary of the launch of the Fairtrade Mark (illustrated)

Please remember that at Morningside Parish Church we renewed our commitment to being a Fairtrade Church in 2020, and it is hoped we will uphold that in 2024.

You already appreciate the Fairtrade coffee served after our services on Sunday, on Wednesday mornings, and at all Morningside Hope events.

Providers of refreshments for Church organisations, please remember to use Fairtrade tea and coffee at least. These are widely available now. This commitment provides support for fair wages and better working conditions, local sustainability, and fairer terms of trade for farmers and workers.

You can Be the Change – Buy Fairtrade

Not just tea, coffee, bananas, also cotton t-shirts, and chocolate of course

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

HARVEST FOODBANK COLLECTION

For many years our Church has been supporting the Blythwood Care SE Edinburgh Foodbank, based at Southhouse Broadway. Throughout the year, donations can be placed in the container beneath the pigeonholes in the Braid corridor, but our biggest effort in contributing to the Foodbank's work is directed towards donating foodstuffs and toiletries at the Harvest Service, to be held this year on 29th September.

The Foodbank serves the EH16 and EH17 postal areas and issues food parcels to those who have been referred by support agencies, the health sector, schools and other charitable bodies. Since the start of the year, food parcels have been issued to almost 2200 clients, of which 43% are children. Giving support to those in need is vital, but stocks are running low as the increasing cost of foodstuffs has resulted in donations not keeping pace with the rise in demand.

This year there is a particular shortage of the following items, so donations of these goods would be particularly welcome – tinned meat, fruit, tomatoes, custard and rice pudding, cartons of fruit juice and UHT semi-skimmed milk and toilet rolls. The Foodbank also requires carrier bags, into which the goods for the clients are placed, so donations of these would also be appreciated. Please hand in any donations at the Braid Hall immediately before the 10.30am Service

The Foodbank cannot accept fresh fruit or vegetables or jars of homemade jam. Also, please do remember when donating any items that they must be in date. If you would prefer to make a financial donation to allow the Foodbank to make its own purchases, cash can be handed in to the Foodbank at 47 Southhouse Broadway, EH17 8AS between 10am-1.30pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays. For online donations please go to blythwood.org/donate-to-foodbank. In the past, the congregation has always responded so positively to this appeal and so thank you in advance for your continued generosity this year.

Finally, if anyone can help with receiving the food donations on the 29th, or is available (with a car!) to take the donations to Southhouse on Monday 30th, please contact Fiona Stewart on 531 9688 or see her after Church one Sunday - around 5 volunteers for each day would be a great help.

ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members,
baptised on 18 August 2024

Rosa Marie Hopkins Young

Louis Denis Hopkins Young



Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Mrs Muriel Veitch who died on 1 June 2024

Mrs Nancy Lyon who died on 5 June 2024

Euan Macfie who died on 10 June 2024

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

MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERTS

We have two concerts coming up in September:

Sunday 1 September at 2pm Peter Foggitt: piano recital

Saturday 14 September, 2pm Santiago: music for organ, flute, trumpet and electric guitar

Just prior to the Santiago concert, we plan to have a brief “pilgrimage” in keeping with the Santiago theme, from Greenbank Church down to Morningside Parish (MPC) starting at 12.30pm. There will be a short reflection by someone from Greenbank followed by some music and then walking down to MPC, a second short reflection led by Derek, followed by some music – a Pilgrimage of Hope. There will then be time to have a bite of lunch before the concert. Feel free to bring a packed lunch or head home and come back for the concert at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to join in the pilgrimage but equally, you would be very welcome to simply come along to the concert itself.



THOMAS CHALMERS - TALK

Wednesday 25 September, 3pm, Braid Hall

Earlier in the year the Minister gave a talk about Thomas Chalmers, “Chief Scottish man”. Chalmers was an influential C19th Church of Scotland minister who was one of the chief movers behind the Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843 and the formation of the Free Church of Scotland. Latterly he lived in Churchill and was a member of the original Morningside Parish Church. He is buried in the Grange Cemetery.

Chalmers’ career saw him ministering in different parts of the country, as well as holding several professorial roles at St Andrews and Edinburgh Universities. He was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and the first Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland.

Not everyone was able to attend the evening meeting when the Minister first gave this talk, so here is an afternoon meeting for those who might like to come, on Wednesday 25th September, 3pm, Braid Hall

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



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.

2024 DATES:

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 30th November



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

Held in the Cluny Hall, 2- 4pm.

September: Monday 2nd Monday 16th Monday 23rd Monday 30th

October: Monday 7th Monday 14th Monday 21st

November: Monday 4th Monday 11th Monday 25th

December: Monday 9th Monday 16th (Christmas Party)

***** Visit from Nigel's All Stars, Traditional Scottish Music Group Monday 14 October.**

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, 2 - 4pm.

9th & 23rd September. 7th & 21st October

4th & 18th November 2nd & 16th December (Christmas Party)

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

18th September 16th October 13th November 11th December (Christmas Party)

TALK: Wednesday 25th Sept @ 3.15pm in Braid Hall

Dr Derek Browning: Thomas Chalmers: "Chief Scottish Man"? (more details on page 5)

ANIMAL AFTERNOONS:

Wednesday Oct 23 Alpacas 2pm

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

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

We offer 4 or 5 dementia friendly concerts each year. Open to everyone, this will be a varied programme.

1st Sept (Sunday) 2pm Piano Recital, Peter Foggitt
14th Sept. 2pm Santiago Project
30th Nov. 2pm Forget me Notes.



PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, Part 2: running over two evenings, Tuesday 22nd & 29th October.

Open to those who have completed the introductory course above and want to further develop their skills and knowledge, 6 – 9.30pm each evening, starting with a light supper.

Specialist subject for the level two will be bereavement.

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.

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

WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING

Once again, I would like to thank the small band of volunteers who have helped to keep this well attended event possible. It wouldn't happen without you and continues to be successful with many people attending regularly to enjoy the chat and companionship.

However, the list of volunteers is getting smaller, and we are appealing for new helpers. You could be in the kitchen making tea and coffee or serving and chatting in the hall. It is not an onerous job and there is time for you to also have a coffee and chat

Any help would be appreciated. It could be once a month, once every six months or even only once a year – every little helps. This would allow our regular volunteers to have a week off. We can train you to help in the kitchen or you could just be 'front of house' serving. If

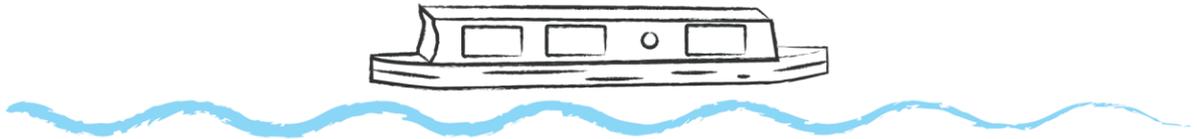


you feel you could give us 2-3 hours on an occasional Wednesday or more regularly, please contact Lesley Murphy on 07981 265 308 or speak to me after the 10:30am service on a Sunday.

Thank you!



Morningside Hope



Afternoon trip with All Aboard

All Aboard is a canal boat run by People Know How in collaboration with Polwarth Parish Church. The boat hosts unique trips on Edinburgh's Union Canal for community groups and organisations to improve wellbeing, socialise and discover new experiences, surrounded by nature in the heart of the city.

You would be welcome to join us on

Friday, 27th September 2024

from

1:30pm until 3:30pm

at Polwarth Pontoon behind Polwarth Parish Church

36-38 Polwarth Terrace

Lifts can be arranged from the church if that is useful.

There is a maximum of 12 passengers.

To secure your place, get in contact soon!

Unfortunately the boat is not wheelchair accessible.

No entry fee although donations are welcome.

For further information please contact Jacqui Lindsay.

Tel: 07834 364628

Email: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

OUR MAIDEN VOYAGE!



We got the most glorious day for our first, of what we hope will be many, trips on this lovely canal boat. Sunshine, tea and cake were the order of the day and the two hours passed in the blink of an eye.

AFTERNOON TEA

What an eagerly awaited event this always is, and 13 July 2024 was no exception. Fiona Stimpson and her team of helpers have it down to a fine art and the whole occasion was like clockwork. The tables are attractively laid with colourful napkins and flower and everyone sits down with anticipation of the splendid savoury and sweet treats which will be presented. A healthy buzz permeates the room as conversation starts to flow.

The teams then wait on their allotted tables and an ample supply of tasty sandwiches and tea or coffee. The cake stands on the tables have a bountiful supply of scones, date loaf, meringues and sweet morsels, followed by lemon and raspberry possets.

What a wonderful way to share a summer afternoon with friends. A huge 'thank you' to the team. We mustn't forget the 'boys' too, who set up the room and then clear up later, and those who tidy everything away.

Ruth Henderson



ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS!

Longer nights are drawing in, it's time to get your crafting skills back into action, dust off the tools required in order to be ready to make bespoke items for our now annual craft stall at the Christmas Tree Festival.

As the Christmas Tree Festival commences on 7 December, we'll need your contribution by Friday 6 December. Please make what you are good at, and think that festival goers would like to buy!

Rona McLaren, craft co-ordinator.

FLOWER LIST

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
Sept	1	Florence Patton	Joan Burnet
	8	Aline Haggart	Karen Keil
	15	Bob Stevenson	Ruth Henderson
	22	Moira Clark	Marjory Watson
	29	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	Flower Committee



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, as they have done with the coffee rota, 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



The lectures will be held in Greenbank Parish Church on Braidburn Terrace at 7pm, preceded by refreshments at 6.30pm. The lectures will last approximately one hour, including time for questions. They will be livestreamed, with the recordings also available via the church's website.



8 SEPT

The Justice Call

Joy Gillespie is CEO of Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland, an adviser to the Scottish Government, and a board member of Poverty Alliance and GoYouth Trust.



15 SEPT

Assisted Dying

Rev Dr Liam Fraser is minister of St Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow. He is the author of "Athelism, Fundamentalism and the Protestant Reformation" (2018) and "Mission in Contemporary Scotland"



22 SEPT

Searching for Renewal in the Mainstream Church

Rev Neil Glover is a parish minister in Highland Perthshire and the author of "Finding our Voice" (2024). He convenes the Church of Scotland's Seeds for Growth

**Greenbank Church at 7pm · Refreshments from 6.30pm
Livestream at greenbankchurch.org
Entry by donation**

OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Material for the October issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 13th September 2024** and it will be available by Sunday 29th September. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk .

On Wedding Rings *Robert Burns*

She asked why wedding rings are made of gold;
I ventured this to instruct her;
Why, madam, love and lightning are the same,
On earth they glance, from Heaven they came.
Love is the soul's electric flame,
And gold its best conductor.



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