

# Magazine No. 195 November 2024

#### Dear Friends

In 1980 I went on a school trip to the old Soviet Union, ten days in Moscow then Leningrad (now St Petersburg). I was studying the Russian Revolution in my last year at school and it was a chance of a lifetime to visit the sites. On one bitterly cold Spring day we were taken to cemeteries where the war-dead were buried.

The siege began on 8 September 1941, when the German army severed the last road to the city. Although Soviet forces managed to open a narrow land corridor to the city on 18 January 1943, the Red Army did not lift the siege until 27 January 1944, 872 days (125 weeks) after it began. The siege became one of the longest and most destructive sieges in history, and it was possibly the costliest siege in history due to the number of casualties which were suffered throughout its duration. An estimated 1.5 million people died as a result of the siege. Military and civilian casualties. Men, women and children. Most in vast mounded unmarked graves. Solemn music played from hidden loudspeakers amongst the trees. It was one of the most overwhelmingly emotional experiences I have

ever had. Those who have visited the war graves in Northern France and Flanders may have had similar experiences. Row up on row of white



'Remembrance Day - Lest We Forget' by <u>Enokson</u> is licensed under <u>CC BY 2.0</u> crosses. Some with names, or a regiment, some with the words, 'Known only unto God'.

War is rarely if ever glamorous. Veterans will often speak of long stretches of boredom punctuated by moments of hideous panic. Some will talk of dogged duty. Some will speak of 'doing their bit.' Some will talk, after it is all over, about the waste of it all, and the needless loss of so much human life and the cause of ongoing human suffering.

Historians will rightly ask if war is ever really over, as there is nearly always one or several conflicts simmering in some part of the world at any given moment.

Faith takes a battering during war time, and there is no point in denying that. Nevertheless, for some it is the one, sinuous, fragile thing that they hold on to, hoping against hope, finding somehow the help that is required to persevere.

When the poppy wreaths are placed at our Church war memorials I always take the time to look at the names recorded. I think about them, and the families from which they came, and the future they never had. And, through the faith I have, determine all over again not to waste their sacrifice, but try to shape a world, however imperfectly, in the attitude of peace and love and kindness and respect.

God is a God of peace, and we owe it to God, and to the memories of those who died, to 'do our bit' today – for peace in every part of our lives – in every part of our world.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

#### KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in October and discussed the following:

**Presbytery Reform –** The Moderator reported that Greenbank had now identified four elders to meet with the four from Morningside to try to progress discussion. The meetings of the team of four elders from each church should press ahead with discussion without the ministers being involved, to see what common ground existed and what new opportunities might be possible with the joint resources of our two churches.

**Outreach** – Kimberly Milne, Convenor, reported that the current yearly financial commitment to the selected charities was: to each of The Edinburgh Clothing Store and The David Nott Foundation a guaranteed £1,500. Thereafter any additional funds raised are divided equally among the two external charities and Morningside Parish Church.

The total distribution from fundraising in 2023 was £11,819. Payment was made in 2024 on the completion of the 2023 accounts and, after an accounting adjustment in respect of funds raised in 2022, resulted in the following distributions:

The Edinburgh Clothing Store £4,690.74;

• The PAD Project £4,690.74; and

Morningside Parish Church £2,438.22

Once the total raised in 2024 from Teas & Coffees funds and any other fundraising activities has been finalised, a distribution will be made in 2025 in respect of 2024 fundraising.

## The breakdown of Fundraising in 2023 was:

Dec 2023 - Christmas retiring collections £1,169.46

Dec 2023 - Christmas Tree Festival £1,862.79;

Teas & Coffees 2023 £6,780.

**Property –** Moira Clark, Convenor, reported-**The south aisle roof repair** continues to move slowly onward. Our architect proposed a plan for the new roof and in June the property committee met to review the idea, and approved it in principle.

A quick summary of what is being proposed. The roof above the existing corridor will be raised to provide a deeper and wider gutter section between roof lights which will in turn allow a graded gutter along the length of the corridor falling to the existing outlets (including the new ones installed last year). The glass will be removed and replaced with a solid roof to include roof lights (Velux windows) at intervals along it, which will provide nearly as much natural light as at present.

It is hoped that the actual work could be priced, and contractors appointed, to enable work to start in the summer of 2025.

Moira also had circulated a detailed report of the wide range of Fabric work undertaken in 2024 to date. Items over £500 include:

- Replacing faulty heaters in office £873.28;
- EICR inspection £534 (which identified several items needing to be urgently addressed);
- New water boiler for kitchen £1,890;
- New tables £2,855.58 (funded by Jam, Making and Baking stall);
- Water ingress at Manse £582;

- Replacement of leaking radiator in St Matthew Hall £,3075.32;
- Roof safety system annual check £560.94.

Other significant outstanding matters include repairs to the high roof estimated at £10,238 but an alternative quotation is being sought. There are also repairs due to the manse where the ceiling has come down in the study bay window This will be covered by insurance once the emergency repair to roof is carried out.

**Stewardship & Finance - Update on Stewardship Campaign –** in the absence of Robert Armour Convenor, **Chris McNeil Treasurer reported** that, including Gift Aid, the Campaign had resulted in a £20k uplift in giving. Further donations are hoped for and an update will be given in November. Christian Aid has yet to let us how much had been raised by the donations of foreign coins – it is being dealt with centrally.

**Presbytery Elder's Report** - Presbytery met on 10 September and once again dealt with necessary administration of the implementation of the Presbytery plan including appointments and demission of Ministers arising from the changes.

- The Moderator has been appointed Interim Moderator at St Catherine's Argyle.
- Two unions were approved: Kirknewton & East Calder with Ratho; and St Michael's Linlithgow with Avonbridge, Craigmailen and Torphichen.
- The Finance report advised that there will be a small windfall to every church in the Presbytery from the re-designation of the North Merchiston Fund. The Fund, which amounted to £175,000, will provide funding on an equal basis among 95 congregations based on the 2023 list of Presbytery Assessments. The funds are to be used for mission purposes to develop work in the parishes and/or to highlight the work of the church in the local communities. It is anticipated that the sum will be received in the first quarter of 2025. The Report in the 2025 Report and Accounts should include reference to the North Merchiston Fund and a note of the mission work undertaken or planned to be progressed. The Fund was created in 2016 following the sale of a former retirement house in relation to the dissolution of North Merchiston. In the terms of the original Basis of Dissolution, the net proceeds were to be divided equally between the Central Fabric Fund and the "National Church Extension Fund for use on projects within the bounds of the Presbytery of Edinburgh". The difficulty is there are no such projects currently underway within the Presbytery and unsurprisingly OSCR are placing importance on charities utilising funds in line with the charities' objectives.
- Treasurer's seminar Presbytery held a seminar to alert treasurers to the issues arising from
  the union of churches and the proper melding of their financial arrangements and registration
  with OSCR. Chris McNeil attended and found it interesting and potentially challenging but
  with the speed of discussion on the future of MPC who knows when he will be called upon to
  use this knowledge!



#### **ROLL CHANGES**

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Mrs Gretta Miller, who died on 10 October 2024

#### **WORSHIP NOTES**

**Remembrance Sunday service** will be at 10.45am on 10 November. There will be no 9.30am Early Service that day.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be shared on Sunday 1 December at 9.30am and 10.30am in the Church. At the 10.30am service, those who remain in the seated areas of the Church when wine is served will receive the individual cups. Those wishing to receive the Common Cup should join the Minister at the appropriate point at the vestibule end of the sanctuary where a table with the elements of bread and wine will be set. We gather at that table and hand the bread and wine to each other in a circle around the table. All are welcome to

# **ADVENT GATHERINGS**

share in Communion in whichever way they choose.

To mark the season of Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas, there will be two study/discussion evenings in December. The first, on Wednesday 4 December at 7.30pm, will look at Mary's Song (the Magnificat) and the Jesus' 'manifesto' – both in Luke's Gospel. The second event, on Wednesday 11 December at 7.30pm, will look at 'The Heart of Christmas', reflecting on the nativity story in Luke's Gospel. Venues in the Church will be announced nearer the time.

These are open discussions, no in-depth Bible knowledge is required, but please bring your enquiring and open minds with you. The studies will be printed in the December Magazine.



## HARVEST COLLECTION - THANK YOU!



This year's Harvest collection for the Edinburgh SE Foodbank resulted in the largest amount ever being donated – over 316kg. This equates to food parcels being issued to 38 single people - or 17 families with two or three children - with sufficient food to feed them for three days. It was an unbelievable response, for which the Foodbank at Southhouse was hugely grateful, particularly as stock levels have been diminishing since the cost of living crisis, and the pressure on household budgets, has taken hold. Since 2021, the Harvest appeal for donations to the Foodbank has resulted in over 1 (metric) tonne of food being collected by the Church.

Thank you to everyone who contributed food, toiletries and plastic bags, as well as those who made financial donations, which exceeded £220. The money will be used to replenish items where stocks are running particularly low. A huge thank you also to all those "behind the scenes" who assisted in setting up the Church and hall, and collected and delivered all the donations on the Sunday and Monday.





Although Harvest represents our main focal point for supporting the Foodbank, donations can be made throughout the year. There is a clearly labelled large plastic box beneath the pigeonholes in the Braid corridor, into which non-perishable foodstuffs can be placed (tins of soup, meat etc, jars of coffee, biscuits, sweets etc) and toiletries. If you wish to know which items would be particularly welcome, or if you wish to make a financial donation to the Foodbank, please contact Fiona Stewart on 531 9688.

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



# **Morningside Hope**



#### SUMMER WORKER

Over the last few months, I have had the pleasure of working with the amazing Morningside Hope groups. I have been working with Jacqui Lindsay, our brilliant Pastoral Assistant, on administrative tasks and making sure the groups that meet during the week all run smoothly.

The Music and Memories team, volunteers and attendees are all wonderful! Singing and chatting, (and even some deep pondering!) there is rarely a dull moment, and everyone is so friendly. I have been blessed with the opportunity to get to know many of the regular attenders at the teas and coffees after the workshop.

Working alongside the Heart for Art group has also been a great blessing. Serving people refreshments and taking a moment to appreciate their art, their passion and even them as themselves. It is a great privilege that I may talk to and get to know these individuals.

The volunteers at these events are all extremely driven and skilled in different ways. I see and hear different ideas, motivations and feelings and yet the teams all work beautifully together to create a harmonious environment.

There was work to be done outside of the weekly workshops, however. Jacqui and I spent some of this time organising and brainstorming for the volunteer celebration which was a wonderful idea. We have also looked into new opportunities for the future.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with Morningside Hope. I can't explain how important it has been to me to spend this time and energy with the amazing people in our community.

Alex Bleck



Postscript from Jacqui: Alex's time with us as Summer Worker could not have gone better; he brought energy, humour, skill and imagination as well as a lot of hard work to the role and was a huge asset. Thankfully we have been given a lovely donation which means we are able to keep Alex for a little longer as the Morningside Hope Support Worker, 6 hrs/week until the end of January - would that we could keep him permanently.

#### MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERTS - SANTIAGO

Our mid September concert was a new musical venture with a mini local Pilgrimage attached reflecting a musical inspiration by the Santiago Pilgrimage. Our pilgrimage was limited in length (Greenbank Church to Morningside Parish) but effective in communicating the essence of the composition which was receiving its first Scottish performance. We were fortunate in having

reflective and appropriate words from lan Gilmour and Derek Browning in both churches with some musical additions. We attracted a good number from each congregation.

The Santiago composition was written for the interesting duo of electric guitar (lain Carleton) and organ (Caroline Cradock) and was well received by our large audience. An added bonus was the presence of



the composer, Andrew Campling, who introduced the work he had written in three movements. The opening Andante reflected measured walking, followed by a slow paced Largo with an evocative guitar solo and concluding with a lively Allegro.

The Santiago soloists were joined by the flautist, Roxanne Benezra and trumpeter Ruari Wilson who had masterminded the whole concert and wore his trademark golden suit! Two beautiful pieces for flute and organ included variations on the well known Veni Creator Spiritus and an expressive Picardy piece again suggestive of meandering and walking. Ruari introduced a short three movement piece called Celebration, a gloriously lively celebration with some popular London tunes including London Bridge and Oranges and Lemons incorporated.



We had a first performance of a specially commissioned work for all four soloists, introduced by Andrew, variations on Ein Feste Burg, ending with a reflective fugue. The concert concluded with some audience

participation in two popular numbers, These Boots are Made for Walking and Walk on By, with two sides of the church singing in competition!

This concert was greatly enjoyed and the different aspects, not least the Pilgrimage and joining of two congregations, was an added bonus. A huge thank you to the ministers and the inspiring Edinburgh: Morningside Parish Church of Scotland: Scottish Charity No: SCO34396

musicians who made this unique event possible. We are greatly appreciative of all our helpers, at the door and providing post-concert refreshments which again proved to be very successful and popular. A special mention is due to Douglas Paterson who has delighted us with his photographic record of every concert.

Our next concert, the last of the series, is very special, representing a culmination of three years of our popular concert series, now an integral part of Morningside Hope which Jacqui Lindsay runs so effectively. We have been fortunate in receiving financial backing and support from the Tor Foundation as well as from Morningside Parish, and our 30 November event will include a Heart for Art Exhibition and will be led by our Music Therapists, Forget Me Notes. We very much hope you will be there, and we continue to be so grateful to our audience members. A new concert series for 2025 is already being planned and promises to be rewarding.

Jennifer Rimer

# AFTERNOON TRIP WITH ALL ABOARD

On the last Friday in September, in what had been a very rainy and cold week, we had the most beautiful afternoon for our second boat trip along the canal. Tea and cake were the order of the day, sitting out enjoying the sunshine, waving to passers-by and even enjoying a young man busking with his trombone.



#### A WONDERFUL AFTERNOON OF TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH MUSIC

On Monday 14 October we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of traditional Scottish music as Nigel's All Stars came to entertain us once again. Nine very talented musicians playing instruments that include everything for mandolin, penny whistle, guitar, accordion, flute, the list goes on, gave us an hour's worth of great music. There was much tapping of feet, clapping of hands and some singing along. One particular favourite was a hearty rendition of "Oh the Midges" – a song I'd never heard before but apparently made famous by Kenneth McKellar – certainly one I hope we'll sing again. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMLona9oeIM

Our thanks go as always to Nigel's All Stars themselves and to our lovely volunteers who served teas and coffees to everyone who came along.





## **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 30<sup>th</sup> November



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

Held in the Cluny Hall, 2-4pm.

November: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Monday 25<sup>th</sup>

December: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Monday 16<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Party)

**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.

4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 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

13<sup>th</sup> November 11<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Party)

# **DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS**

We offer 4 dementia friendly concerts each year. Our last one this year will be on **Saturday 30 November at 2pm** and feature **Forget me Notes** who lead our Music and Memories group. It will be a chance to sing along to some well-known tunes and celebrate all the work that's been done in Morningside Hope over the past three years. Our Annual Art Exhibition from our Heart of



Art group will also take place over that weekend, so a chance to enjoy some of the amazing paintings that have been produced over the last year.

All Welcome!

For more information on any of the above just contact our Pastoral Assistant Jacqui Lindsay on 07834 364 628 or e mail: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

#### EDINBURGH CLOTHING STORE WEEKEND

# Saturday 16 November - Coffee Morning

The Edinburgh Clothing Store (Charity Number SC039409) is holding its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Coffee Morning – with a variety of stalls – on Saturday 16 November from 10.00am-12.00. After last year's most successful Coffee Morning when a record amount was raised it has once again been decided to hold the event in the Sanctuary of Morningside Parish Church.

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. Everyone agrees that it is lovely to appreciate the beauty of the interior of the Sanctuary and it is much easier to move around.

# Tickets priced £5 for adults and £2 for children available 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 yet again. At the same time inflation has increased our running costs with items of clothing which require to be bought costing significantly more. 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.

# Sunday 17 November – Gift Service

By popular demand the Gift Service at 10.30am 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 both by the donations of new clothes for children and donations of money which have allowed us to buy items which are in short supply.

Due to the increase in the cost of living many more people are wearing their clothes for longer and many are selling their good quality clothes online. This has had a detrimental effect on the amount of second-hand clothes which have been donated over the past year. We are therefore having to buy more to meet the continuing need of children who are living in abject property in our city. Again, the number of children has increased and there is a desperate need for warm winter clothing.

On the two Sundays prior to the 17 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 four options.

Option 1 – Please take one or more labels

Buy an appropriate item or items

Attach the label or labels

Bring on Sunday 17 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 17 November but can on 10 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, as ever, there is a huge need.

Thank you so much in anticipation.

Fiona Stimpson



#### **FLOWER LIST**

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
Nov	3	lan Hastie	Irene Wilson
	10	Remembrance	Marjory Watson
		Sunday	
	17	Penny Graham	Penny Graham &
			Liz Munro
	24	Liz Munro	Anne Armour &
			Issie Paterson

The new flower list for 2025 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 direct on 0131 449 2866; e-mail: <a href="mailto:irene\_a\_wilson@btinternet.com">irene\_a\_wilson@btinternet.com</a> 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 come and 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

# WARS, RUMOURS OF WARS AND NATURAL DISASTERS

With the television news and the press full of reports of wars, rumours of wars and natural disasters it is difficult to watch or read without feeling sympathy, but also powerless to do anything to alleviate the suffering of those affected.

However, in a small way the choice, promoted by our Outreach Committee and approved by the Kirk Session, of the **David Nott Foundation** as one of the three charities we support, was specifically made to do something practical to help people of all ages directly affected by wars or natural disasters are. But who is David Nott and how does his Foundation help those affected?

The David Nott Foundation delivers Trauma Medical Training for doctors serving in areas affected by natural disasters or wars thereby enabling more lives to be saved.

David Nott is a General and Vascular surgeon working for the NHS in major London hospitals. For more than 25 years he took periods of unpaid leave to volunteer in some of the world's most dangerous war zones including Sarajevo under siege in 1993, to spells in Afghanistan and in clandestine hospitals in Aleppo. At various times he worked for the British Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières. However, his experiences led him to observe that, while it was useful for him to bring his skills to these areas, his time in these locations was limited and more could be achieved for the wounded survivors if he spent time training local doctors who were perfectly competent in peacetime but lacked the necessary specialised skills to deal with critical and ongoing injuries arising from wars or natural disasters.

The Foundation uses a diverse mix of teaching methods and materials led by a world class faculty of experienced and distinguished surgeons, including using the internet and bringing doctors to the UK for brief training experience. Their vision is a global network of medical professionals providing the best care to patients in austere or hostile environments.

As an example of their pragmatic approach and use of the internet in response to the situation in Palestine with the growth in numbers of trauma injuries due to shelling, shrapnel or collapsed buildings, they have delivered emergency courses to over 70 surgeons and anaesthetists tailored for doctors preparing to travel to Gaza; they have upskilled a further 36 surgeons and 12 Kuwaiti anaesthetists intending to volunteer their skills in Palestine; and recognising the difficulty of supporting the hard pressed and hard to reach medical professionals already on the ground, they have turned their world class surgical training course into a series of short videos which can be watched in their own time.

Support of this charity will mean that we don't just sympathise with the plight of those injured by wars and natural disasters, but in a small way we can do something to help alleviate the problem.

Greenbank Parish Church will be hosting a virtual Advent Calendar at: <a href="https://tuerchen.app/2smbAFgzTNw2s294">https://tuerchen.app/2smbAFgzTNw2s294</a>

As you would expect, you can't open any doors until 1 December!

#### **NOVEMBER 2024**

#### Remembrance

Islands Under Occupation: the wartime experience of a Channel Islands church

Remembrance Prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly

# 'Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things'

The Guild's Annual Gathering

# **Presbytery Focus**

Clèir Eilean Ì, the Presbytery of the Highlands and Hebrides

# **Care for Buildings**

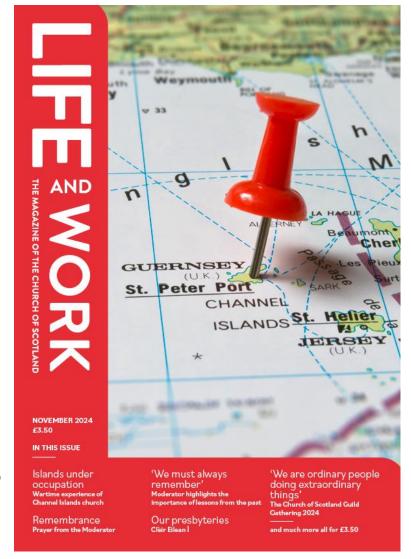
The Rev Scott Rennie of the General Trustees offers some tips on care for buildings in winter.

# **Walking the Camino**

Anne Edwards describes the experience and lessons of a Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage.

# 'No Room for Comfort and Joy'

The Christian Aid Christmas Appeal



## Regulars

The Moderator of the General Assembly on Remembrance

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter

My Church: Gillian McLean of Corby, Northamptonshire

Youth: Joe Liddall looks back on his experience as a summer intern at an Edinburgh church

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#### **DECEMBER MAGAZINE**

Material for the December issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024** and it will be available by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Contributions should be emailed to <a href="mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk">editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</a> .

#### Does it Matter?

Siegfried Sassoon - World War One poet

Does it matter? – losing your legs?...
For people will always be kind,
And you need not show that you mind
When the others come in after hunting
To gobble their muffins and eggs.

Do they matter? – those dreams from the pit?...

You can drink and forget and be glad,
And people won't say that you're made;
For they'll know you've fought for your country
And no one will worry a bit.

Does it matter? - losing your sight?...

There's such splendid work for the blind:

And people will always be kind,
As you sit on the terrace
remembering

And turning your face to the light.

Victory Over Blindness, Manchester (1) by David Dixon is licensed under <a href="#">CC BY-SA 2.0</a>.

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 <u>editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</u>

Church Administrator: Leigh Malaihollo 447 6745 office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

# www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk