

Intimations 1st December 2024

- Today: 1st December, Advent Sunday. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated** at 9.30am and 10.30am in the Church. During the 10.30am service we will admit Olivia Thrower as a new communicant. The theme: Raise up your heads.
At the 10.30am service, those who remain in the seated areas of the Church when bread and wine are 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 share in Communion in whichever way they choose.
Tea and coffee after the service in the St Matthew Hall after the 10.30am service. Please remember to give an appropriate donation.
- Funeral notice:** We give thanks for the life of Lady Lucinda MacKay. Please remember her family in your prayers. A funeral service has still to be arranged.
- Funeral notice:** We give thanks for the life of Miss Aileen MacCallum. Please remember her family in your prayers. A funeral service has still to be arranged.
- Jam, Baking & Making Stall:** The stall last Sunday raised £250 - payment for 3 more tables so we have nearly completed our commitment. From 11 stalls in 2024 we raised £2,624.50. Many thanks to all who contributed. There is no stall in December but we begin again on January 26th 2025
- Church Magazine and Life & Work** are available for collection from the pigeonholes.
- Morningside Hope:**
Music and Memories in the Cluny Hall, 2-4pm, workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers. The next workshop will be on Monday 9th (Cluny Hall) and 16th December (Christmas Party in St Matthew Hall).
Heart for Art workshops for those with dementia and their partners. Held every Tuesday in the St Matthew Hall, 11am – 1pm.
Gentle Exercise Class – 2-4pm, Mondays 2nd and 16th December (Christmas Party) in Cluny Hall.
Games Afternoon Christmas Party – 2-4pm, Wednesday 11th December in the St Matthew Hall
- Flower List 2025:** The Flower List is quickly filling up and only 5 dates remain to be filled namely 9 and 16 March, 27 April, and 16 and 30 November. If you would like to supply flowers on one of these Sundays, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date on the

list on the vestibule noticeboard. The cost is £45 and cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. Payment can be made by bank transfer if you prefer. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please confirm that you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener or fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes. Monies can be put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office clearly marked for the Flower Committee. Please contact me direct on 0131 449 2866; e-mail: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com if you require details to make a bank transfer.

8. **Christmas Tree Festival 2024:** Join us for our third Christmas Tree Festival, opening on Saturday 7th December at 10am in the Church, and open each day thereafter from 10am - 12 noon. 14 trees from church and community groups will be decorated, telling us something about their stories. The Festival runs until Sunday 15th December's All-Age Christmas service at 10.30am. Entry to the Festival is by donation, and any proceeds from the event will go to charity. There will be a stall of hand-made Christmas gifts and decorations, always a popular visit for those stocking-fillers. On Saturday 7th, 11 am - 11.20am we will have music from the Junior School Musicians from George Watson's College. On Saturday 14th, 11am - 11.20am we will have singing from the Buckstone Community Choir. On the two Saturdays, refreshments will be on sale from 10am - 12 noon. All are very welcome to join us.

9. **Dates for your diaries:** Due to the Christmas Tree Festival running from Saturday, 7th December to Sunday, 15th December, the Christmas trees will be put up and decorated in the Sanctuary and in the Church grounds on Friday, 6th December. As usual, we are looking for volunteers to help with this and if you can spare a couple of hours, you will be made most welcome. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided to keep your strength up. If you can join us, please meet at the Church at 9:30am.

Twelfth Night: On Monday, 6th January 2025, the internal and external Christmas trees will be taken down and the decorations put into store. As usual, we are looking for volunteers to help with this and if you can spare a couple of hours that day your help will be much appreciated. Please meet at the Church at 10:00am. Thank you in anticipation of your help.

10. **Nursing Home services:** It is helpful to have 'singers' boosting the hymn singing at these services. If you can help you will be most welcome. The next **Cluny Lodge** service is on 4th December at 2.30pm. An extra Christmas service will be held on Wednesday 18th December at 2.30pm. The next **Morningside Manor** service is on 11th December at 2.30pm. The next **Ashley Court** service is on 18th December at 2.30pm.

11. **Advent Gatherings:** To mark the season of Advent, the time of preparation for Christmas, there will be two study/discussion evenings in December. The first will be on Wednesday 4th December at 7.30pm and will look at Mary's Song (the Magnificat) and the Jesus' 'manifesto' – both are in Luke's Gospel. The second event will be on Wednesday 11th December at 7.30pm and will look at 'The Heart of Christmas', reflecting on the nativity story in Luke's Gospel. These are open discussions, no in-depth Bible knowledge is required, but please bring your enquiring and open minds with you. The venue will be at the Manse, 20 Braidburn Crescent, EH10 6EN. Tea and coffee from 7.15pm.

12. **Christmas and New Year services:**
8th December: services 9.30am and 10.30am. The theme: Wilderness.
15th December: No 9.30am service (choir practice in Cluny Hall)
All age service at 10.30am led by the Sunday Club. After this service we will require help to remove church chairs in preparation for the South Morningside Primary School service in the following days.
Christmas Treats in the St Matthew Hall after the 10.30am service.
3.00 pm Blue Christmas Service in the Chancel. A service for those who find the season of Christmas difficult or sad for a variety of reasons.
22nd December: 9.30am Early Service (Cluny Hall), the theme – Magnifying God; 10.30 Service of Lessons and Carols
24th December: Christmas Eve 6.30pm All age service. The theme – Wrapped.
Carols by Candlelight from 11.00pm
Watchnight Service from 11.30pm. The theme – Light in the Darkness.
25th December: Christmas Day service 10am. The theme, Beginning.
29th December: No 9.30am service; 10.30am service as usual. The theme – Clothing.
5th January 2025, Epiphany: Regular 9.30am (Cluny Hall) & 10.30am Morning Worship services resume. The theme – Gifts.
Tea and coffee after the service in the St Matthew Hall after both services.
Please remember to give an appropriate donation.

13. **Greenbank Church** will be holding a Christmas service at 3.00pm on Sunday 15th of December.

14. **Edinburgh Royal Choral Union- Christmas with the Choral:**
Join us for a festive concert in the Church Sanctuary, with Conductors Michael Bawtree & Fraser David Macdonald and our very own Organist, Morley Whitehead. Saturday 14th December at 5pm. Tickets £15 (£5 for students & children). Tickets can be purchased on the door or at:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/edinburgh-royal-choral-union/christmas-with-the-choral/e-odjaob>

15. **Next Sunday: 8th December:** 9.30am Early Service (in Cluny Hall) and 10.30am Morning Worship in the Church. The theme: Wilderness.
Tea and coffee after the service in the St Matthew Hall after both services.
Please remember to give an appropriate donation.

Contact details:

Minister: The Very Revd Dr Derek Browning: 0131 447 1617

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Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay: 07834 364628

Email: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org

Church Office: 0131 447 6745

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In the Event of the Fire Alarm sounding: Please take a few moments to make yourself aware of the fire exits in the Church. Should the fire alarm sound during the service please evacuate the building using the nearest safe fire exit to you.

If you are able, please assist those around you to evacuate. Elders will be on hand to direct you once outside the building.

Sunday Service live-stream: the cameras for the live-stream of the church service go live at around 10.15am. One of the camera shots is of the front half of the Church. If you do not wish to appear in the camera shot, please find a seat in the back half of the Church.

Sunday Contact: if you become aware that there is a problem with the Sunday service broadcast, please phone – 07712 118033 or email a.bleck55@outlook.com.

Intimations: if you wish to have intimations included in the weekly sheet, please email these to the Church Office by Thursday 1pm at the latest.

Be a good neighbour: many Church members, elders and visitors, along with the Minister, Pastoral Assistant, are keeping in touch with people by telephone or email. Face-to-face visiting is now available by arrangement with the Ministerial team. Everyone is encouraged, where possible, to keep in touch with neighbours, friends, and family, whether they are Church members or not. If there is anything you wish to pass on to the Ministerial team, please contact them as soon as possible.

Baby and Toddler Group: our weekly Baby and Toddler Group meets on Mondays from 10am – 11.30am in the St Matthew Hall. All are welcome.

Wednesday Coffee Morning: in the Braid Hall on, 10am – 11.30am. We look forward to seeing you and your friends. If you need any further information or wish to volunteer to join the Rota to help then please contact Lesley Murphy (mobile: 07981 265308)

Financial Giving to the Church: Please keep up to date with your financial giving via standing order or direct debit or save your envelopes and other financial gifts and bring them to church.

Increase regular donations: please consider instructing your bank to increase your existing standing order if you are able. Cheques can be posted to the Church Office for processing.

If you would like to make a one-off donation, please use the new 'Donate' button on the Church website.

Your continuing, or increased, generosity is very important. It enables so much to happen in and around our Church. **Thank you.**

Morningside Parish Church Website and Facebook: the website www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk has details of services and sermons and information about the Church. You can also 'like' the Morningside Parish Church page on Facebook. This will be one of the regular means by which you can keep informed about what is happening at the Church.