



Magazine

No. 198 March 2025

Dear Friends

I saw recently an interview with national treasure Dame Joanna Lumley, talking about the interior life.

"I think there's too much self-examination. I think we're all as dull as ditchwater. If you've been in yourself, you know yourself. So when they say, what do you discover about yourself on this short journey? You go, nothing! Because I was here all the time...I like reading books and looking at paintings and talking to people and hearing new ideas and things. I think if you keep on trying to find out who you are...it's quite a short road. Also, I'm as shallow as a puddle." The Christian season of Lent might not be for the Dame, and of course she's half right. Too much navel gazing and introspective contemplation can mean a life of inaction and indecision. We all know people who look constantly for every angle, every possibility, every nuance, and nothing gets done.

But equally, "*The unexamined life is not worth living*" – a phrase attributed to Socrates, also has an element of truth in it. If all of our living is, 'on the outside', if

we simply bash on with things without giving much thought to consequences, or indeed motives, then a great deal of harm can be done to others, and to ourselves.

Many fear silence and being left alone with their thoughts. Many feel that they are, 'as shallow as a puddle', and would rather not have that made public knowledge. I wonder if that is why discussion and study groups at church, and other places, make many uneasy because it exposes our weaknesses, ignorance, prejudices, uncertainties, doubts. Isn't it always better to do things, organize things, make noise in the dark in case we are overlooked, become invisible, are taken for granted, forgotten?



The truth is hovering somewhere between. Life is made up of action and reflection. Getting that balance right in how we live, and in how we believe, is a route towards a balanced and meaningful Christian life. We need both, particularly as we traverse the sometimes dark days of Lent, journeying onward to the hope and light that is Easter.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in February and discussed the following:

Education – in his absence Kenny Robertson, convener, had submitted a report advising that the Committee has maintained its focus on (1) Sunday club and engagement with younger people generally; and (2) adult education.

In relation to Sunday Club, attendance numbers are generally cyclical. Several regular attenders in previous years have now reached an age where they feel too old for Sunday Club, albeit we also benefit from new joiners coming on board. Attendance numbers are not where they were pre-pandemic, but this is not peculiar to our Church. Typically, between four and six children would be in attendance on Sundays.

The Committee continues to discuss exploring ways in which engagement with younger families could be strengthened through increasing awareness and visibility of Sunday Club activities. Going forward, there may be collaboration opportunities with other churches, which the Committee will continue to keep an eye on.

Children continue to feedback that they enjoy their more visible role in readings and prayers, albeit the lower numbers can result in a restricted number of families being relied upon at present. Children at Sunday Club may, going forward, be invited to contribute to the content of the prayers they read on a Sunday, to further strengthen engagement and participation.

The Nativity play was a highlight for the Sunday Club children, who all enjoyed taking part. Crèche remains available for very young children.

The Committee wishes to extend its gratitude to Norma and Rona, both of whom invest huge amounts of un-seen time and energy to make Sunday Club an educational, fun and engaging experience for the children. In Norma's more recent absence through ill-health, several members of the congregation have supported Sunday Club, and it is similarly grateful to them.

Separately, members of the Committee continue to be engaged in adult education through support for activities such as the Autumn lectures and Lent studies.

Session too expressed its appreciation of the leaders of Sunday Club and Crèche. It also suggested that the Education committee should consider possible involvement with the "Growing Young Programme" devised "to lead congregations through a process of change to reach a younger Generation". An introductory webinar has been arranged for the end of February 2025 and more information can be obtained from kenneth.brown@churchofscotland.co.uk

Worship – Douglas Paterson, convener, reported that that the Worship Committee met recently to reflect on our current worship arrangements and consider any scope for change or addition to our approach as we move forward.

Events over the recent Christmas season were noted by all to have been particularly successful. Services including the All-Age service with children's presentation, the Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Eve All-Age service and the Watchnight service all attracted large and varied congregations. The verve and humour of the children's presentation and the music and singing of the Lessons and Carols were particularly highlighted. The Christmas Day service continues to attract many, including those visiting the area over Christmas while the Blue Christmas clearly offers a helpful alternative approach for those who attend who find Christmas a difficult time.

The importance of music and singing in worship and the particular contribution of our choir and organist was unanimously endorsed. It was noted that few other congregations enjoy the benefit of such musical talent, and the hope affirmed that the means of maintaining the choir and nurturing the young scholars continue to be found.

The role of our younger people in the congregation whether in offering prayer or assisting with the collection or otherwise is also much appreciated, it being noted that they also enjoy this participation.

Attention was also drawn to the importance of several 'routine' aspects of worship arrangements:

- The welcome offered at the door.
- The flowers in the sanctuary and the appreciation of those who receive them.
- The live-streaming which makes the service available to significant numbers and a facility now increasingly requested for funeral services.
- The less formal approach and more intimate surroundings of the 9.30 service continue to attract a regular attendance of up to thirty. The contribution of those who regularly offer the invaluable support of piano accompaniment is greatly appreciated and especially so in the case of the young Ukrainian refugee being mentored in this role.

It was noted that it was the turn of our Church to host the joint Holy Week services.

ECO congregation - the Moderator reported that he had met with a group from Greenbank, and a representative from Fairmilehead, who were very keen to promote the concept of being an ECO congregation. This is not a formal process which our Church had chosen to develop clearly although, for example, the support of the Edinburgh Clothing Store resulted in the recycling of large amounts of clothing and we already used energy-saving bulbs, recycling waste paper etc. There could be possible ECO problems with printed orders of service but the layout of our sanctuary does not lend itself to screened information. Similarly, individual milk plastic units could be criticised on ECO grounds but are valued from a Health & Safety viewpoint. He suggested and Session agreed that information on ECO matters would be a suitable topic for the Autumn Lecture series possibly from local, national and international viewpoints to learn more about the topic.

Communication committee – Isobel Paterson, convener, tabled a review of church website management which was approved by the Session. There will be no visible change to the website, the change will be in the way the church office can manage the website in future.

Christmas Tree Festival – the Committee was very pleased at how this had gone. Many new people visited our church and comments were complimentary. Thanks were extended to those who helped in any way. Although not primarily a fundraiser, the Committee was appreciative of the effort put in by Rona McLaren at her craft stall and by the Social Committee in providing the refreshments. £2,275 was raised divided equally between the Wednesday Club and the Save the Children's appeal for Gaza.

A criticism was that we did not advertise the charities well enough so we will try to improve on that next time. That was because it proved difficult to transfer money in pounds – rather than dollars - to our first choice of charity but television pictures suggest that the money will be appreciated.

Presbytery Elder's Report – The Clerk reported that Presbytery met on 4 February. Although it was a short meeting, a significant amount of business was speedily dealt with. The Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth of Newington Trinity was installed as the new Moderator of the Presbytery.

The business conducted may give some indication of the changes underway in the Presbytery - three long serving ministers gave notice of their demission from their charges; three ministers had been inducted to their charges, including the Revd Dr Conor Fegan to New Town; and nine property proposals for sales or fabric works were approved.

Deployment reported that they continue its efforts to implement the approved Presbytery Mission Plan including in those areas “where implementation requires focused time and energy” in complex situations. Following the vote at the December meeting against a proposed variation of the Plan, in future they will share extensive background work in order that Presbyters share as fully as possible the responsibility for decisions. They also reaffirmed that Deployment's remit included the approval of locally paid ministry appointments and applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

Faith Impact reminded Presbytery of the visit of the Revd Stewart Gillan, Presbytery's Mission Partner and Minister of St Andrews Jerusalem and Tiberias and encouraged attendance at one of the events which including one at our Church on Tuesday 25 February @ 7.30 pm

They also reported that the Church of Scotland “Equality Diversity and Inclusion, Racial Justice Group has hosted webinars to discuss the historical involvement of Scottish institutions, particularly the Church, in the slave trade. It is proposed that a draft apology will be presented to the General Assembly of 2025”. Members were encouraged to revisit the report of the Committee to the 2023 General Assembly and to visit the website of the Churches Reparation Action Forum.

North Merchiston Fund- Each congregation in the Presbytery will receive shortly a share of c£1800 from the fund to be spent on “mission purposes”. “Applications will not be required but the Trustees' 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”.

Christian Aid – the Moderator indicated that our representation on the joint committee with local churches had fallen, as it had with those churches too. The matter is under review.

ROLL CHANGES



Please give a warm welcome to our newest member, Mrs Helen Duffy, admitted by resolution of the Kirk Session on 11 February 2025.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of Douglas May KC, who died on 26 January 2025.

WORSHIP NOTES

Holy Week and Easter 2025

Our annual joint Holy Week services with Greenbank Parish Church will be held in April this year and will be hosted in our Church. There is an ongoing discussion about the number of nights on which services will be held and an announcement will be made once a decision has been taken. Services will be held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The discussion is focussing on the other evenings. Maundy Thursday is on 17th April and Good Friday 18th April. The Holy Saturday service, on 19th April, is likely to continue.

Easter Sunday is on 20th April. There will be one service that day at 10.30am.

Lent Studies 2025

These studies will take place on Wednesdays 19th and 26th March, and 2nd April.

There will be studies in the late morning and evening. The morning meetings will be in the St Andrew Room at 11am. Time for refreshments at the Wednesday Coffee in the Braid Hall beforehand! The evening meetings will be in the Manse (20 Braidburn Crescent), refreshments from 7.15pm, the studies will start at 7.30pm.

Three themes in total, looking at different aspects of Holy Week and Easter.

Study 1: Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-44

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

²⁸ And when he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he drew near to Beth'phage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village opposite, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this, 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ And they said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt they set Jesus upon it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. ³⁷ As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hid from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days shall come upon you, when your enemies will cast up a bank about you and surround you, and hem you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and dash you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another in you; because you did not know the time of your visitation."

1. **What do you notice in the Palm Sunday story?**
2. **What do you make of the role of the disciples, the crowd, the Pharisees?**

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3. **What might the Lord 'have need of' today – from the Church, from you?**
4. **What would Jesus weep over in the Middle East today?**

Study 2: On the way to the cross

Luke 23:26-55

The Crucifixion of Jesus

²⁶ And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyre'ne, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. ²⁸ But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Death of Jesus

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸ And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

The Burial of Jesus

⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph from the Jewish town of Arimathe'a. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their purpose and deed, and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid; ⁵⁶ then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

1. **Simon of Cyrene carried the cross behind Jesus. What does 'carrying the cross' mean for you today?**
2. **At the Crucifixion scene, what and who do you notice; what do they say?**
3. **Death is always difficult as a subject. What do you notice in the death of Jesus? What does it make you think and feel?**
4. **In the burial of Jesus what details do you notice? If you are willing to share, what have been your experiences of death?**

Study 3: Easter and beyond...

Luke 24:1-35

The Resurrection of Jesus

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; ⁵ and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise." ⁸ And they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Mag'dalene and Jo-an'na and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; ¹¹ but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emma'us, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cle'opas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning ²³ and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see." ²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, ²⁹ but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with

them, ³⁴ who said, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

1. **What details in the Resurrection story stand out for you?**
2. **Why might the Resurrection story have been considered, 'an idle tale' then, and now?**
3. **When Jesus appeared, disguised, on the Road to Emmaus, what do the two disciples and then Jesus say and do? What do you make of this walking conversation?**
4. **Arriving at Emmaus, Jesus appears to want to go further. Why? What do you make of the meal shared, and the reaction in Emmaus, and then back in Jerusalem?**

THE LOCAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE for the
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Will be held on **FRIDAY 7th MARCH 2025 at 10.30 am**

Theme: "I Made You Wonderful" (from Psalm 139: 14)



This service has been written by Christian women of The Cook Islands.

Our local WDP service will be held this year at St Peter's RC Church, Falcon Avenue at 10.30am, followed by refreshments. An invitation is extended to all at Morningside Parish Church and it is hoped that as many as possible will be able to attend.

10 Days of Prayer lead up to the World Day of Prayer. These prayers begin on Tuesday 25th February and will be posted on the Scottish WDP Committee website and Facebook:

www.wdpScotland.org.uk

A list of other WDP services in Edinburgh and further afield will be available on that website under 'Service Arrangements'.

We have now heard from Christian Aid that the sum raised from foreign notes and coins was an incredible £2,850 - a pretty good joint effort from Greenbank and



Morningside digging out small change and old notes left over from trips abroad. A big thank you to all who emptied out drawers and piggy banks to support this good cause.



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



Morningside Hope



UPCOMING DATES:

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

Held every Tuesday in St Matthews' Hall 11- 1pm



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

Held in the Cluny Hall every 1st and 3rd **Mondays** in the month 2- 4pm

March: Mondays 3rd & 17th

April: Mondays 7th & 28th

(21st April is Easter Monday, so no class that day)

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES: dementia friendly but **open to all 60+**The class itself will last 40-45 minutes, followed by tea, coffee and the chance to chat.

Held on **Mondays** in the Cluny Hall 2-4pm

March: Mondays 10th & 24th

April: Monday 14th

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 catch up.

Held once a month on a **Wednesday** afternoon, 2-4pm

19th March

16th April

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

We offer four dementia friendly concerts each year. Open to all, the first for 2025 will be on **Saturday. 29th March, at 2 pm** when we will welcome our organist Morley Whitehead together with a return visit from soprano Caroline Trutz to give us an organ and vocal recital, an event not to be missed. The concert they gave us last year was described as 'something for everyone' so we hope for the same again!

Please join us that afternoon, and encourage friends and family to do the same - we are so grateful to all our audience members for their support.



PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, an Introduction: running over two evenings,

Tuesdays 18th and 25th March in the Braid Hall

Caring for one another is the responsibility of each and every one of us, so we are offering a brief introduction to Pastoral Skills from 6 –9.30pm each evening, hopefully starting with a light supper.

With a maximum of sixteen places, the course **is open to anyone** interested in finding out more about pastoral care, without the necessity of making any commitment, beyond the course itself.

The course will look at topics such as:

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

The training will be hands on/experiential in nature and the aim, to make it an enjoyable experience for those attending. There is no charge for the training and CPD certificates will be provided.

Pastoral Skills Course, Part 2: running over two evenings, Tuesdays 21st & 28th October.

Open to those who have completed the introductory course above and want to further develop their skills and knowledge. 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.

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

LIFE + WORK – MARCH 2025

Served with Soul: A partnership between a West Lothian church and a charity offering companionship and meals to the local community.

Healing Brokenness: The work of mental health charity Kintsugi Hope

Spiritual Journeying: The Church of Scotland and Lent

Drawing People to Faith: Two more of the Church of Scotland's New Worshipping Communities

Shining the Light of God's Love: The story of a life transformed by one of the Church's Priority Area congregations.

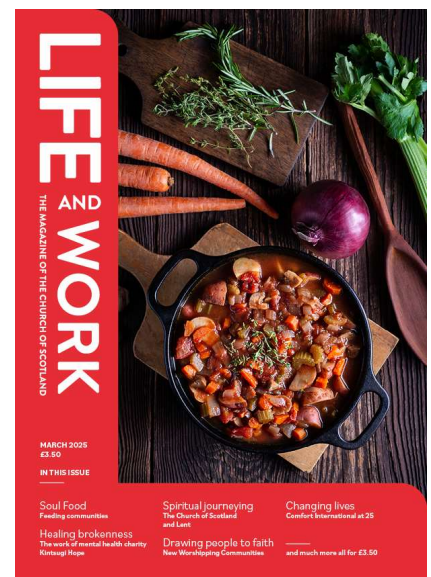
Supporting Religious Education: A milestone for a Scottish Christian education charity.

Changing Lives: The work of Comfort International, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year.

Also includes

My Church: Rachel McWilliam, an elder at Edinburgh: Greenbank

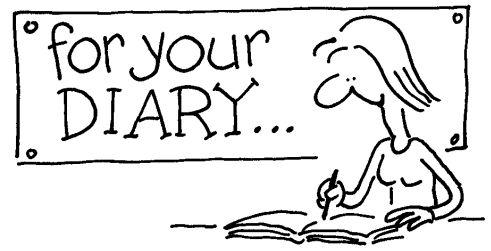
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MORNINGSIDE HOPE QUIZ AND SILENT AUCTION.

When: Tuesday 17th June Time: 7 – 9pm

We plan this one-off fundraiser for Morningside Hope and very much hope you can join us, either as a team of 6 or just as yourself and we'll make up teams on the night.



We hope too that you might be able to donate items (unwanted gifts, family heirlooms that are just cluttering up the place 😊 etc.) and talents that we can auction on the night.

Examples of talents might be things like:

- catering a dinner party for 4
- 2 hrs gardening
- An evening's babysitting or dog or cat sitting 😊
- A dog walk
- An hour's consultation with a financial advisor
- 2 hr intro to IT skills
- A batch of baking or a birthday cake for that special occasion
- 4 introductory music lessons

Any talent you might have that others could benefit from; we can probably auction it!

It's likely to be a fun night so we hope that as many of you as possible can join us.

Jacqui Lindsay

A CHRISTIAN AID PRAYER

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

Where there is apathy, let me provoke; Where there is compliance, let me bring questioning.

Where there is silence, may I be a voice.

Where there is too much comfort and too little action, grant disruption. Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, Grant the willingness to listen.

When laws dictate and pain is overlooked... When tradition speaks louder than need... Grant that I may seek rather to do justice than to talk about it; Disturb us, O Lord. To be with, as well as for, the alienated; To love the unlovable as well as the lovely;

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance

FLOWER LIST

The flower list for March is as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
Mar	2	Norma Wilson	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
	9	Nyria Bailey	Irene Wilson
	16	Grace Macaskill	Marjory Watson
	23	Hazel Nicolson	Irene Wilson
	30	Barry & Helen Hughes	Karen Keil



The cost for flowers 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 advise me if you have registered with the Gift Aid Convener or alternatively fill out one of the Gift Aid envelopes. 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:

irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com if you require details to make a bank transfer.

Remember, if you are unable to come to church on your chosen date for any reason, you can always see "your" flowers online.

Do you have a talent for, or would like to try your hand at, flower arranging? You will have noticed that the majority of our displays are now in vases as opposed to the pedestals we used previously. We are always delighted to welcome new members to join our team - men are also 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



SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION – CINEMA NIGHT

Our annual cinema night takes place on Thursday 13th March at 7.30pm in the Dominion Cinema. This year the film is 9 to 5 with Dolly Parton. A ticket costs £50 for two people and includes fizz, snacks and gold class seats.

If you would like tickets, visit the SLA website www.sla-india.org or speak to Lesley Murphy after the church service on a Sunday.

MUSICAL NOTES - MEET OUR SCHOLARS

Some of our choral scholars introduce themselves:

My name is **Diya Eddleston** (soprano) and this my first year as a choral scholar at Morningside, and I really enjoy it! I'm 15 and I'm currently a music scholar at Fettes college, so I'm involved in lots of music. Before Fettes, I was a chorister at St Mary's cathedral choir in Haymarket. I've been in lots of different choirs and I love MPCs atmosphere and the music we sing and I'm really looking forward to the year ahead!



Hello, I am **Rafal Hill** (bass), a choral scholar in Morningside Parish Church. I am 16 and go to George Watson's College. I am half Polish and I attended primary school in North London which was highly regarded for its choral accreditations. I sing bass and am part of a select quartet in school. Last year I won the George Watson's singing competition and look to continue that this year alongside taking part in the school production where I get the opportunity to develop a new musical theatre branch of my voice. On top of my passion for singing, I have an array of other musical interests. I am a highly accomplished classical and electric guitarist as well as playing the piano and euphonium. I am a member of numerous bands and orchestras and value music to the highest standard. Outside of music I am a Scotland selected hockey player so you might see me singing with a bandage! My eventual goal, however, is to study physics at University and continue to progress my musical career.

I'm **Henry Jones** (bass) and I'm lucky enough to have been awarded a scholarship at Morningside Parish Church. I play percussion, cello and piano alongside my singing. The choir has really helped my sight-reading and made me feel a lot more comfortable singing in an ensemble or solo setting. Singing in lots of choirs at school, I do get a lot of experience but one of the biggest differences from church is that you get maybe 8 - 10 weeks of rehearsals on a piece before singing it in a concert. At church you have the excitement of rapidly preparing pieces in a very short amount of time. I have been studying percussion at the Junior Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for two years now and I was pretty determined to pursue a career in percussion, but since joining the choir, my head has been turned towards the singing side of things. Morley has played a massive role in this, with his incredible musicianship and support, he has opened a new door for me.

My name is **Emily MacFarlane** (soprano) and this is my second year as a choral scholar. I really enjoy being part of the choir! I'm currently in my first year at Edinburgh University studying law which I'm really enjoying. I'm involved in lots of music in and outwith the university including the university symphony orchestra. Outside university, I'm part of National Youth Choir of Scotland and had the amazing opportunity to sing in the BBC proms last summer in the Royal Albert Hall. I am also very excited to be singing in a concert with Eric Whitacre this summer! Looking forward to more great music with Morningside this term.

My name is **Giselle Nascimento Dias** (alto), and I'm a 22 year-old mezzo-soprano originally from Portugal and South Africa. I am currently in my final year studying International Relations at the University of Edinburgh, although my goal is to become a professional opera singer.

Having grown up in the Middle East, this is my first time singing in a church choir, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to earn money doing something I love. Alongside my studies and choral scholarship position, I have private vocal lessons twice a week, and I am currently preparing repertoire for a 50-minute recital this summer for the FRSM Diploma.

When I am not singing or studying, you can usually find me playing board games with my friends.

My name is **Olivia Thrower** (soprano) and I am a 17 year old in my final year at George Watson's College. Next year I hope to go on to study Architecture at either Edinburgh University or Glasgow School of Art. My hobbies include art and music, which I spend much of my free time with. I began learning the violin from the age of 3 and piano from 8, studying at St Mary's Music School for a period of my education before moving to Watson's in third year. As a member at Morningside Parish Church, I involve myself through my position as a choral scholar singing soprano and also being on the rota for the weekly readings. I also work at the festival theatre as a Front Of House usher, helping customers enjoy their theatre experience to the utmost of my ability. I enjoy the bustling environment of working the wide variety of shows and hope to continue working there for the foreseeable future.

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR CD YET?

As promised in last month's magazine, this is retired elder, Jim Jenkinson's reaction to having bought and listened to one of our Morningside organ CDs. Jim, himself an organist, has much to say... I do hope that what he writes might yet encourage more of us to buy - although sales are going well.

MW

Dear Morley

The Christmas rush is over, my family members have all returned to their own homes, peace and quietness has descended on our house, and I have had an opportunity to listen to your CD, not once, but several times over. It's a sheer delight and joy to listen to, containing many works which are familiar to me from hearing you play them in MPC. In fact, as recently as Sunday, 29th December, 2024, you played Bédard's "*In dulci júbilo*", to my great joy, whilst many of the congregation chatted to each other as they walked out of the church, not knowing the subtle variations and key changes they were missing!

I congratulate you on your choice of music included in this recording, which certainly demonstrates the great range of volume available, going from ppp to fff, and the different tone-colours (flutes, strings and reeds) our organ possesses. She is a real beauty, and we are lucky to have her in her present state in MPC. I particularly noted your first and last works on the CD, which start and end the recording with great aplomb. I really appreciated too your many different registrations, in right hand, left hand, and pedal, which so cleverly highlight the main themes and motifs in each work. (Listening to the CD was like walking through a forest and coming upon new animals and wild flowers as I walked along.) And also the balance in volume between the hands and pedals seemed just right: the 16' pedal voices were easy to hear, but respectfully restrained.

I was also very aware of your playing technique after turning pages for you, - that whether it be on manuals or pedals the notes are played "crispily", i.e., the notes sound on and off with precision. I have listened to and watched many organists playing on You Tube, and so many of them seem to crawl over the keys, whereas your fingers and feet are precisely on and then off the notes with computer precision.

The sound engineer was good enough not to stop each track until the last vestiges of echo had faded away – all part of the rich acoustic of MPC, made richer still with the seats out.

I think little would be gained if I discussed every work you perform, because I think your performances absolutely perfect, and your interpretations so varied and interesting. However, allow me to single out but four works which particularly interested me because they were in my repertoire:-

(1) J S Bach: Air from Suite no. 3 in D. I thought that the Air would be very suitable for Annette (my wife) to enter the church at the beginning of our wedding in 1963, and the Gavottes I and II in this Suite, regularly performed by The Edinburgh Academy School Orchestra when I was a pupil there, would make good pieces to be played at the end of the ceremony. I had no trouble getting a copy of the Air, but I couldn't find one for the two Gavottes for our organist. Nothing daunted, I set off to make my own transcriptions from a miniature orchestral score. When I had completed these I gave them to a dear friend of mine, who was very musically inclined, and whose father, Dr G. Herman Allatt, was Organist at St Mary's Parish Church in Haddington to check it over. Stan thought that my transcription was OK and all was well. (I just love that constant quiet walking beat on the pedal, keeping everything in time).

(2) J S Bach: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*. My version is more easily played by amateurs, because when the Chorale comes along, the running organ part stops, only to start up again when that line of the Chorale finishes [*the Alec Rowley edition? - ed.*]. Easier for us amateurs, but not so "authentic" as your [*Harvey Grace - ed.*] version, which I very much enjoyed listening to.

(3) John Stanley: *Trumpet Voluntary*. I was particularly fascinated by your interpretation of this work, in that you played the "trumpet" solo parts louder than the "organ" repetitions. I found that very interesting indeed and a strange wake-up call for me: I have always played the organ repetition parts louder than those for the solo trumpet, as if the organ was saying to the trumpet, "This is the way you should play that bit" .

(4) Leon Boellman: *Toccata*. Every time I hear you play this, I remember running home from primary school at 3 pm or so, to listen to "Dick Barton, Special Agent" on the radio. The signature tune for this exciting spy story was very similar to this music, if not the actual piece itself.

Your programme notes are very useful and helpful, the photographs of the church, console, and you, are just right. Indeed it is altogether a very attractive production. Well done, Morley. The CD is a joy to have and to listen to. I look forward to the next edition!

I hope many members of the congregation will purchase a copy and even consider buying another one or two to send to friends at Christmas time or even to previous members of the congregation now living far away, to bring back happy memories of their time in MPC.

Very best wishes,

Sincerely,

Psalm150, v4,

Jim.



APRIL MAGAZINE

Material for the April issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 14 March 2025** and it will be available by Sunday 30 March. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk .

Pippa's Song *Robert Browning*



The year's at the Spring
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The larks on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn:
God's in His heaven –
All's right with the world!

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