



Magazine

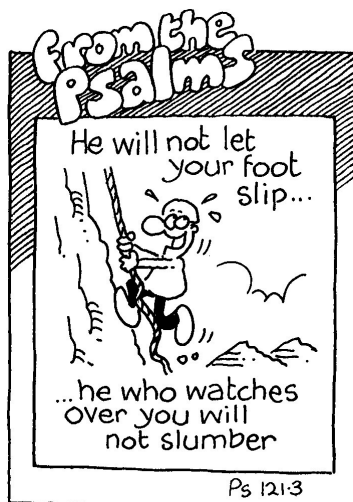
No. 201 June 2025

Dear Friends

I was struck by this quote from Winston Churchill which I heard during the VE Day commemorations in May: "Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts." It applied to Britain in the depths of World War II. But it applied to other wars too. On 15th August there will be a commemoration of VJ Day, often overlooked, but one which has left an atomic bomb-shaped mark on the history of our world. Far from our shores in the UK, but men and women served, fought and died in the Far East, and they and their families still bear the marks of that conflict. As do others who served in the Korean War, and Aden, and Cyprus, and Palestine, and North Africa, and the Falklands, and Afghanistan, and Iraq. And let us not forget Northern Ireland, the Civil War within our own borders.

To say nothing of all the other casualties to peace that stain and scar our world today in so many different countries. One of the tragedies of humanity, and there are many, is to be found in the old Roman saying, 'Those who wish for peace must prepare for war.' *Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts*, applies not only to matters of war and peace, but to the struggles and fears and hopes and dreams of life. Where do we need the courage to

continue, knowing full well that nothing stays the same forever? All those times when we have thought we have got everything in the right place, and sorted out, then out of nowhere destiny throws a curve ball, or tosses a spanner into the works. The unexpected health condition; the redundancy; the relationship melt-down; the financial blow; the bereavement.



Courage is found in unlikely places, and in unlikely people. Not all are heroes and heroines, but there are more courageous people out there in the world than we give credit. And their courage can often be an inspiration to us. If they can do it, so might we.

In our world and country today, and in our Church today, I feel there is a call for us to be courageous, and to continue, which is going to count.

The toughness to stand together, work together, share together, serve together in the current climate is what we will need for all the days ahead. It's not something confined to the past. It's something that is still needed today.

Ernest Hemingway wrote that, "Courage is grace under pressure." I wonder, for all of us, where will we need to be courageous, and where, under pressure, will grace be displayed?

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in May and discussed the following:

Reports – Communications Committee – Isobel Paterson, Convenor, reported that the group regularly considers if there is any way we might improve communication both within our congregation and with the wider community, but have so far this year consolidated rather than innovated.

Website - Efforts to transfer the management of the website to Worx24 are progressing slowly. The viewer will see no change, but it simplifies maintenance issues.

Social Media - Facebook continues to be used. The church has its own page but posting on the Facebook 'I Love Morningside' site has proved useful in reaching a wider audience.

Jam, Baking and Making Stall - This continues to be a useful fundraiser for the church and also encourages participation from a wide group. New bakers would be most welcome. In 11 stalls in 2024 the stall raised £2,624.50.

Christmas cards - This is a worthwhile task that benefits from the meticulous work of the Roll Keeper, Alison Calder and the Church Administrator.

Christmas Tree Festival - will take place on 13 - 20th December (10-12 weekdays; 10-2 on Saturdays).

- Thursday 11th afternoon & evening will be setting up time.
- Dismantling will be after the morning service on 21st.
- Sponsor: William Purves, local undertaker, has generously agreed to sponsor us again.
- Participants: It was agreed that the Moderator would ask Canaan Lane School if they wanted to decorate a tree. Otherwise, we will approach those who have happily participated in the past.
- Musical events: It is hoped that last year's performers will participate again.
- Refreshments: Fiona Stimpson has agreed to provide refreshments which will be in the Braid Hall. It is hoped to have a Christmas tree trail that might end at the entrance to refreshments to encourage customers.
- Invitations will be sent to nursing homes and nurseries. Posters will be emailed to Care Homes and nurseries in the area to see if they would like to come on weekday mornings when visitors are few.
- Craft Stall: Rona McLaren is happy to take charge of this again.
- Beneficiaries: The Committee decided that Morningside Hope should get half of any money raised and that the other half would go to an overseas charity.

Nomination of new elders - The Moderator reported that four of the suggested people had agreed to become elders - Robert McCabe; Morag Shankland; Laura Shaw; and Neil Thrower. He proposed to meet with the prospective elders to discuss further the role of an elder and then hold another meeting towards the end of August/beginning of September with them and some of the Session. The date for ordination will be about the end of September/early October. Session was happy to approve the proposals.

Annual appointment of Representative Presbytery Elder - The Moderator advised that the Clerk was willing to serve for another year as Representative Presbytery Elder and Session approved his appointment.

WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday 1st June will be when we next celebrate the **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**. Services will be held at 9.30am and 10.30am in the Church as usual. All are welcome to share in these communion services. That Sunday is also Ascension Sunday when we mark the time of Jesus' departure from earth, after Easter and resurrection, and before Pentecost.

Sunday 8th June is **Pentecost** and the birth of the Christian Church. The colour red is often associated with the Holy Spirit Who came to bless the followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. If you're so minded, wear something red to Church on Pentecost Sunday!

The last 9.30am service for the Summer will be on Sunday 8th June. The 9.30am services recommence on Sunday 7th September.

Choral Evensong, Sunday 15th June, 7.30pm

Our organist and choir will give a service of choral evensong on 15th June, a service that is popular with many. Entry will be by donation and all proceeds raised will go towards funding the choral scholarships for the next session.

STATED MEETING

The Stated Meeting of the congregation will be on Sunday 22nd June at 11.45 am in the Church (after the morning service). This is an opportunity to hear from the Session Clerk and Treasurer about the life and finances of the Church. Papers will be available in the Church vestibule two weeks before the meeting.

SUMMER SERMON THEME: 20TH CENTURY PLAYS

In March this year I saw the play *Death of a Salesman* in the Festival Theatre. This sparked a thought about a theme for the services I will be leading in July and August, and so I have chosen four Twentieth Century plays to feature as means of understanding the teaching of Jesus and the practice of the Church.

20th July *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett. Theme: to live is to pray.

Luke chapter 11. 1-13, Colossians chapter 2. 6-19

27th July *The Birthday Party* by Harold Pinter. Theme: to live is to be active

Luke chapter 12. 13-21 Colossians chapter 3. 1-11

3rd August *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. Theme: to live is to love

Luke chapter 12. 32-40 Hebrews chapter 11. 1-3, 8-16

10th August *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov. Theme: to live is to redeem the past

Luke chapter 12. 49-56 Hebrews chapter 11. 29 - 12.2

Revd. Alistair H Keil, BD DipMin



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

Annual Art Exhibition: Saturday 29th November.



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

June: Mondays 2nd & 16th

July: Mondays 7th & 21st

August: Mondays 4th & 18th

September: Mondays 1st & 15th

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 Church 2-4pm

June: 9th & 23rd (no classes in July or August)

September: 8th & 22nd

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

18th June

No games July & August

17th September

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS: We offer 4 dementia friendly concerts each year. Open to all, this will be a varied programme. The next concert is a Brass Quintet on Saturday 31st May at 2pm.

TALK: Monday 30th June at 3.15pm.

Speaker: Mr Eric Melvin, Egypt – Luxor to Aswan (please note change of topic)

Canal Boat Trips: Sadly, the charity that ran these has been dissolved due to funding being withdrawn. Another body may take the boat over but that is unlikely to happen before the end of the summer. Watch this space!

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

PLAYLIST FOR LIFE TRAINING DAY

The Playlist for Life Training Day went ahead on Saturday 3rd May, with 11 people attending. This was the first step to introducing Playlist for Life into Morningside Hope.

The day introduced us to the whole concept of the impact of familiar music to each of us and how we can create individual playlists of significant songs for those living with dementia and others. All the participants began creating their own playlists and these will be completed over the coming weeks and the individual playlists downloaded for each person.

I was very grateful to everyone who attended – we all seemed to enjoy the whole experience and think were surprised by some of the music we remembered and were moved by.

Playlist for Life was set up by Sally Magnusson after her family's experience of caring for their mother who was living with dementia. For more information about the charity, you can visit their website:

<https://www.playlistforlife.org.uk/>

If you are interested in being supported to create a playlist either for yourself or someone you care for, please let me know. We hope to facilitate numerous playlists over the next few months and beyond.

Jacqui



The photo is of Penny Graham, Hazel Knight and Alex Bleck, three of our participants.

Tel: 07834 364 628 or email: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk



This aspect of the work is being made possible thanks to monies from both the Community Fund and R S MacDonal Charitable Trust.

KEEP THE DATE FREE - IT IS BACK

SUMMER LUNCH

Sunday, 24th August 2025 at 12 noon

in the Braid Hall

Come along and enjoy a lovely Buffet Lunch on the above date.

Everyone will be made very welcome.

More details will follow nearer the time via the intimations.

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



The talk will last approximately 50 minutes and then there will be a chance to chat with the speaker and each other over tea and coffee.

Entry is by donation, all proceeds to Morningside Hope

MORNINGSIDE HOPE TALK, MONDAY 30TH JUNE AT 3.15PM

This year's Morningside Hope talk will be given by Mr. Eric Melvin. Eric comes very highly recommended as an interesting and entertaining speaker. The illustrated talk is entitled:

Egypt – Luxor to Aswan

It starts with a brief background about Ancient Egypt and then it's a cruise from Luxor to Aswan finishing with a visit to Abu Simbel.



LIFE AND WORK - JUNE 2025

Vital Volunteers: The value of the Church's unpaid helpers

Memories of Pope Francis: Former Moderators remember meetings with the late Pontiff

General Assembly 2025: Interview with Lady Angiolini, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly.
Further summaries of this year's reports.

'God Has Guided My Journey': Carol Finlay looks back on a 36-year career in the Church, in India, Malawi and Edinburgh

'A Weight of Responsibility': Jackie Macadam meets the recently-elected Edinburgh MP Dr Scott Arthur

Pillars of Faith: Engaging with visitors at Glasgow Cathedral

A Revival of Grace: Final part of the series focusing on the Church's work in Priority Areas

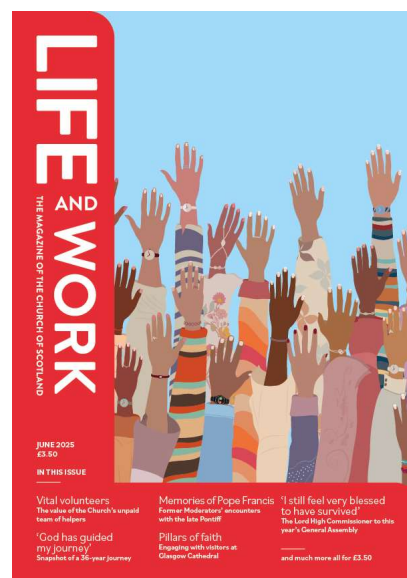
Regulars

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter



CHRISTIAN AID



Our joint Holy Week services in April with Greenbank Parish Church included a retiring offering for the work Christian Aid in the Middle East. A thank you note has come in:

Thank you for your donation

Thank you for your generous support of our DEC Middle East Humanitarian appeal. Your single gift of £363.21 on behalf of Morningside and Greenbank Parish Churches will make a real difference.

As the situation in Gaza is ongoing, I thank you for all that you may have given, and continue to give, as the crisis deepens in Lebanon.

Your support helps our trusted partners to provide crucial resources to civilians affected by this humanitarian crisis. Together, we're offering meals, shelter, sanitation, medical relief and psychological support to people facing a desperate situation. By working with the 14 other DEC member charities, we can expand the aid that our partners are offering and meet the escalating needs of people who are fighting for survival.

In the last year, we've supported 800,000 people in Gaza. We wouldn't have been able to do this without donations from supporters like you. And now as conflict intensifies across the Middle East, your donation will enable us to continue to support people living through the agony of war.

Your gift shows our neighbours in the Middle East that they're not alone, and that we care deeply. Thank you.



We marked VE Day with a cake.



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

MORNINGSIDE HOPE QUIZ AND SILENT AUCTION

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!



Tuesday 17th June 7 – 9pm

Time: 6.30pm for 7pm start (Bar available from 6.30pm) **Tickets:** Adults £6 Children £3



Tickets are now on sale for this event and can be purchased either from **Karen Keil** or **Jacqui Lindsay**.

Examples of talents might be things like:

- catering a dinner party for 4
- 2 hrs gardening
- 6 jars of homemade marmalade or jam
- 4 home baked loaves – one each week for a month
- An evening's baby/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!

If anyone would like to offer an item or talent to be auctioned, there will be sheets available at the back of the church and during coffee over the next few weeks or simply let Karen Keil or Jacqui Lindsay know.

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

Come as a team of 6 or as an individual and we will make teams up on the night.

All the proceeds will go to Morningside Hope.

Jacqui Lindsay



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest member,
Georgia Sutherland Frost who was baptised on 4th May 2025

FLOWER LIST

The flower list for over the summer months is as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
June	1	Joan Burnett	Joan Burnett
	8	Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
	15	Helen Duffy	Karen Keil
	22	Douglas Walker	Marjory Watson
	29	Fiona Watt	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
July	6	Moira Forsyth	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
	13	Roger & Jane Prince	Ruth Henderson
	20	Hazel Knight	Joan Burnett
	27	Marjory Watson	Marjory Watson
August	3	Robin & Fiona Stimpson	Karen Keil
	10	Jim & Annette Jenkinson	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	17	Liz Munro	Penny Graham & Liz Munro
	24	Margaret Gossip	Eleanor Watt
	31	Florence Patton	Irene Wilson



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 advise me if you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener or fill in one of the white Gift Aid envelopes. 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 with the Sunday 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

THANK YOU! – from the David Nott Foundation

David Nott
FOUNDATION

David Nott Foundation
193 Hercules Road
London
SE1 7DL

Reg charity no. 1162537

Morningside Parish Church
2 Cluny Gardens
Edinburgh
EH10 6BQ

May 7th, 2025

Dear Euan,

I am delighted to confirm receipt of your exceptionally generous donation, and I wanted to express my gratitude to you for your continued support. I know I speak for David, Elly and our team at the Foundation as well. Your support enables us to continue this vital work training surgeons in conflict zones and austere environments.

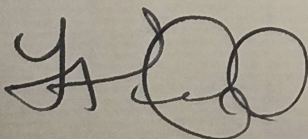
One of the greatest pleasures of my new role has been getting to know some of the incredible supporters who, like you, have sustained our ability to reach communities in conflict these past nine years.

As we approach the end of our tenth year of action, the challenges we face globally at present are formidable. The world is increasingly violent and whole communities are under threat. It can often feel overwhelming. However, with your support, we can contribute to the alleviation of suffering in many of these areas. We are deploying our teams to affected countries in support of their doctors and other healthcare professionals contending with the horrors of war and catastrophe.

Your vital donation means we can continue to train surgeons on the frontlines in Palestine and Ukraine. We can offer scholarships to war surgeons all over the world, allowing them to come to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh for a week to undertake more in-depth training in humanitarian surgery. We can also begin to make plans for a changing Syria. Last month, we delivered training in some of the areas we could not reach under the Assad regime. We will also turn our attention towards training doctors working within the forgotten conflicts and catastrophes that do not make the headlines every day, such as DRC and Myanmar. With your help, we are striving for a world where safe, skilled surgical care is available to all.

Should you have any further queries about our work please don't hesitate to get in touch. On behalf of the 2,158 doctors we have trained worldwide since 2015, thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Dr James Gough
Chief Executive Officer

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR CD YET?

A new CD of "Organ Favourites", played on the MPC organ by our organist Morley Whitehead is now on sale. Total playing time is just under the hour, the price £10, and all monies raised will go to our Choral Scholarship Fund. To buy your copy, see Morley after the morning service or contact the Church Office.



From a recent issue of *Console*, the newsletter of the Edinburgh Society of Organists:

ORGAN FAVOURITES – REVIEW BY JOHN KITCHEN

Long-time ESO member and well-known Edinburgh musician Morley Whitehead has recently recorded a very fine CD on the organ at which he has now officiated for 33 years: that of Morningside Parish Church. This organ has not been much recorded, although we did include it in *Organs of Edinburgh*. A new recording is therefore very welcome, particularly one as well recorded and produced as this.

Morley's programme does indeed include many favourites: Bach's *Jesu, joy and Air* from the Suite in D; Stanley's *Trumpet Tune*; Thalben-Ball's *Elegy*, and ending with the *Prière à Notre Dame* and the *Toccata* from the Suite *Gothique* of Boëllmann. But there are lesser-known pieces too: *Theme with Variations in A minor* by William Faulkes (does one pronounce the L?) and the *Variations on 'In Dulci Jubilo'* by the tuneful Denis Bédard. (Variations always give a player plenty of scope to show off different registrations.) Two of Kenneth Leighton's *Fantasies on Hymns Tunes* are included: 'Lumetto' and 'St Columba'. Morley is a keen advocate of Kenneth's music, and so it is fitting to have these fine pieces included; they were of course commissioned by the late great Herrick Bunney whose assistant Morley was in St Giles' from 1971 - 1991. So a well-chosen selection of repertoire for all tastes. (Keen-eared listeners will notice how effectively Morley juxtaposes the different pieces, often relating their keys to avoid unwelcome gear-changes from one item to the next.)

The liner notes helpfully and fascinatingly set out, side by side, the changes that have taken place in this organ over the decades: built by Father Willis in 1901 (his last organ in Scotland); rebuilt 1929 by Rushworth & Dreaper; rebuilt again 1980 by R&D, introducing some then-fashionable neo-classical influences; and finally in 2004 by Harrison & Harrison who wisely reversed some of these changes. This is all carefully documented in the notes. Morley knows the organ better than anyone and puts it through its paces with great skill, displaying a wide variety of colours. The 2004 *vox humana* makes several welcome appearances, as does the new *tromba*, notably in the *Stanley Trumpet Tune*, where Morley wisely 'meets the organ on its own terms' and does not try to make it sound like an 18th-century instrument. And lots of lovely celestes to enjoy—there are sets on both swell and choir. (I recently learned that in another Edinburgh church a lady calls the celestes "the shimmers", a rather apt description!) Of course, we also hear the full organ several times, and very impressive it is.

The CD has been expertly recorded by Matt Norriss, and the presentation of the booklet and accompanying photography (much of it also by Matt) is beautiful, with a lovely cover picture of the noble edifice of MPC with a large cherry tree in the foreground. My only criticism of this cover is that Morley's name isn't prominent enough!

(Dr John Kitchen is the City Organist, University of Edinburgh Organist, and Director of Music at Old St Paul's.)

SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the September issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 15 August 2025** and it will be available by Sunday 31 August. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk . Please note that there are no magazines in July and August.

EVERYONE SANG *Siegfried Sassoon*

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields; on - on - and
out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;
And beauty came like the setting sun:
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror
Drifted away...O, but Everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the
singing will never
Be done.



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