



# Magazine

No. 202 September 2025

Dear Friends

Walter Bruggemann was an American Christian scholar and theologian who was a professor of Old Testament studies. He died earlier this year. His work often focussed on the Hebrew prophetic tradition, the Psalms and the sociopolitical imagination of the Church. He spoke unequivocally about the need for the Church to provide a counter-narrative to the dominant forces of our time: consumerism, militarism and nationalism. Originally a strong supporter of modern-day Israel and its biblical claims, Bruggemann later repudiated Israel for what he believed to be its exploitation of 'ancient promises' to create a 'toxic ideology,' and then affirmed his belief that it was not anti-Semitic to stand up for justice for Palestinians.

I met him in the 1990s in Atlanta. I was struck by his powerful and imaginative interpretation of the Old Testament, challenging its readers to engage with the world of playful imagination written into Scripture which is lost when we become black-and-white literalistic readers of the Bible. I remember him after a lecture talking to me about his concerns about American (and world) Christianity being taken over and drained of colour by the, "shiny white boys" of fundamentalism. His prophecy for parts of the Christian community in America has become true when you read of the wilful and ignorant misinterpretation and

misappropriation of the Bible, God, and Jesus by those who are intent to co-opt (or is it coerce) the spiritual and religious to an earth-bound, partisan interpretation that bears little resemblance to the free and challenging Spirit of faith Who refuses to be bound or boundaried by humanity's often myopic and self-serving world view.

I rediscovered Brueggemann's, *Gift and Task, A Year of Daily Readings and Reflections*. His concise and sometimes spiky interpretation of what the Bible may be saying to us in our time is matched by his short and pithy prayers.

*Ruler of all nations and all peoples, You hold us, our friends, and our enemies in Your hand.*

*Give us large vision to imagine that Your good purposes may be other than ours...*

*We thank You, keeper of promises, for every new beginning. Give us clarity for newness, that we may do the hard work of faithful interpretation and the equally hard work of neighbourly justice...*

As we stand at the beginning of this new session and season of our Church's life, we too might pray for playful imagination, large vision, clarity for newness and a commitment to faithful interpretation and neighbourly justice in all we attempt in Jesus' Name in the months ahead.

*Very Revd Dr Derek Browning*

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

## KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in June and discussed the following:

**Presbytery Reform** - The Moderator had no progress to report. Greenbank's interim Moderator had advised him that their Session had had a "thoughtful meeting" on the subject and had asked that representatives of Presbytery's Deployment Committee attend their next Session meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June. As this coincided with our own Session meeting, there was nothing to report from that meeting at the time of our Session. Since this was the last Session until September, considerable efforts were made to find a date for representatives of our Church, Greenbank, Fairmilehead and the Presbytery Deployment of Resources team to meet and finally agreement was reached for 30 June.

The Moderator also reported that the recent General Assembly had decided that all congregations should produce annually a short Mission Statement and Action plan.

The Moderator regretted that in some parts of the Church there appeared to be a lack of understanding of the reality facing the Church of Scotland - currently 75% of ministers are over 55, and 20% are over 65; the recruitment of new ministers does not match the rate of retirements. In addition, congregation age profiles are increasingly elderly and there is not yet in some quarters an appreciation of the unsustainability of the consequences of the over-provision of church buildings.

**Reports – Stewardship & Finance Committee**– Robert Armour, Convenor, reported that generally giving had held up pretty well against budget and Euan Murray had been doing an excellent job in the prompt recovery of tax on income which had been Gift Aided. Early indications of the review of giving showed an increase of around 9%. Rental income had also increased against budget and a further review of rents should increase rental income from September. However, it seemed likely that expenditure was also increasing and that the year-end position would result in a budget deficit.

Looking to the immediate future he said that:

1. Funding had been raised for the immediate continuance of the work of Morningside Hope.
2. Rising energy costs remained a concern and efforts must be increased to establish if solar panels were now an option on a listed building.
3. Premises were yielding better income but there were outstanding repairs in the pipeline.
4. No general Stewardship appeal would be launched this year but there would be an emphasis to encourage, and on the benefits of, legacies to the church in an action plan for the autumn.

**Retirement of Chris McNeil as Treasurer** - After 16 years in the role, Chris had indicated that he wanted to stand down. His period as Treasurer had been a busy one covering not only the careful supervision of routine receipts and payments but also the complexities of annual accounting compliance in a period when there had been major sales and building works, insurance claims and fund-raising campaigns. He had liaised with our banks and the Church's National Office about financial matters and our financial holdings, worked regularly and closely with our Accountants in connection with general business and our Auditors in relation to the annual accounts. The Moderator, on behalf Session and the congregation, thanked Chris most sincerely for all that he had done, a sentiment endorsed by spontaneous applause from the elders present.

We were fortunate that Euan Murray had been identified as successor and the handover was already in planning. Session was happy to endorse the proposal that Euan take on the role. Euan confessed that some years ago he had acted as Treasurer of the former congregation known as Morningside Parish Church, and when released from that task decided "Never Again". He admitted that this might indicate that he was not a man of his word but, with the benefit of the passage of time, he was in fact looking forward to the challenge!

## WORSHIP NOTES

The 9.30am services recommence on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**Harvest Thanksgiving** will be on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am**

Once again we will be supporting the work of the SE Edinburgh Foodbank with specific food and household goods items. On this Sunday there will be one all-age service at 10.30am. More details on page 11 in the magazine.

We hope that the choir will be back that Sunday too.



**Communion Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

The next sharing of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am and 10.30am in the Church. The Lord's Table is open to everyone who wishes to share it.

---

## AUTUMN LECTURES IN MORNINGSIDE PARISH CHURCH

This year's Autumn lectures will be hosted in our Church and jointly supported by Greenbank and Fairmilehead Parish Churches. We meet for refreshments in the **Braid Hall from 6.30pm and the lectures will be held in the Church at 7pm.**

The theme for this year's lectures will be:

**Ecology Matters, the wellbeing of Creation and Humanity.**

**7<sup>th</sup> September:** Mike Robinson, who chairs Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and is Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. His theme will be: **Ecology, the Climate and the need for Action.**

**14<sup>th</sup> September:** Val Brown is Head of Christian Aid in Scotland. She has served on the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council, chaired their Middle East Committee and currently chairs their Ethical oversight committee. Her theme will be: **'The Unstoppable Power of Hope: Christian Aid at 80 – a look at the global work of building a more just world.'**

**21<sup>st</sup> September:** Professor David Farrier is Professor of Literature and the Environment at the University of Edinburgh. He is the author Footprints: In search of Future Fossils. His work has been translated into ten languages. He will talk on his recently published book, **'Nature's Genius: Evolution's Lessons for a Changing Planet.'**

The evenings will be funded by donations from those attending, so please give generously.



# Morningside Hope



## DATES for 2025

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

Held every **Tuesday** 11- 1pm

**Annual Art Exhibition:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November.



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

Held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> **Mondays** in the month 2- 4pm

**September:** Mondays 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

**November:** Mondays 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

**October:** Mondays 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>\* & 20<sup>th</sup>

**December:** Mondays 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Party)

*\* Visit from Nigel's All Stars, Traditional Scottish Music Group date 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025*

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> **Mondays** in the month 2-4pm

**September:** Mondays 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

**November:** Mondays 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

**October:** Mondays 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

**December:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> (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 catch up.

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

17<sup>th</sup> September; 15<sup>th</sup> October; 19<sup>th</sup> November; 17<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Party)

**ANIMAL AFTERNOONS:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October Alpacas 2pm (TBC)

**DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS:** The concerts last 40 – 45mins and are followed by teas and coffees.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September. 2pm, Strings

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Chamber Choir

The Church also offers a **coffee morning** every Wednesday, 10 – 11.30am – all welcome!

Interested in attending? Please come along with 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.

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](mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)



## ANIMAL THERAPY REALLY IS THE BEST MEDICINE!

We had a full house to welcome back our two little four legged friends again on 27<sup>th</sup> May, with ages ranging from just a few months old to those in their 90s. Those who came were struck by how gentle and patient the animals were. Everyone who wanted to had a chance to pet and stroke the little ponies, some little ones tried some bare back riding and there even a few circuits round the hall for some of those in wheelchairs, as the ponies trotted alongside. Everyone left with a smile on their face which is what it's all about.



## SPEAKER SUPPER – LADY JANET BALFOUR

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May, we were pleased to welcome Lady Janet Balfour to the latest speaker supper. After a delicious two course supper, a mix of congregation members together with family and friends in a full hall had a very interesting evening listening to her talk about her experiences writing a biography of Agatha Christie.

I had a very enjoyable morning with the Tryst Patchwork Group at their Annual Strawberry Tea back in June. It was lovely to see so many beautiful patchworks which were really small works of art.

Thanks to Jane Prince, who is a member of the group, we were adopted as the group's charity 2024/25 and received a very generous cheque for £1,000 towards the work of Morningside Hope.

We are so grateful to both Jane and the group for their kind support. The photo shows Deborah Pearce, the group's vice chair, presenting the cheque.



Jacqui Lindsay



## MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERT

### – BRASS QUINTET

This wonderful little concert by a Brass Quintet raised over £650 for Morningside Hope on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May. The five members – prison educationalist Ruari Wilson on trumpet 1, GP Elliot Longworth on trumpet 2, vet David Rimer on French horn, IT

specialist Adrian Sulston on trombone and credit risk modeller Mike Freter on bass trombone – entertained a substantial and enthusiastic audience with a very varied and melodious programme ranging from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. They opened with a snatch of classical Handel – La Réjouissance from the Royal Fireworks – seemingly when it was commissioned in 1749 by George II he instructed Handel – “no fiddles”! It was followed by 3 jazz classics: songs by Gershwin arranged for brass – Fascinatin’ Rhythm, By Strauss (which did include little snatches in waltz time) and Nice Work. Ruari told us that Gershwin’s estate was the most valuable left by any composer. The quintet then played two harpsichord pieces by Giles Farnaby, dating from 1592 and arranged for brass by Elgar Howarth: The Old Spagnoletta, sounding measured and Elizabethan and a more jaunty one, A Toye. Next came the slow movement of a Victor Ewald quintet with a beautiful little Adagio, a brisk Allegro and a stately, tuneful Adagio. Apparently, Ewald’s day job was as an architect and engineer – he is one of a list of notable “amateur” composers: including the priest Vivaldi, professor of chemistry Borodin, school-teacher Holst, naval officer Rimsky-Korsakov, apprentice butcher Dvorak and infantry officer Mussorgsky.

Too often when one sees the words “World Première” in a programme, one’s heart sinks: a work to be played once and never heard again. However, John Glenesk Mortimer’s Songs of the Isles, specially written for the Quintet, deserves better. The “Women’s Complaining Song” was rhythmic and forceful with an occasional dissonant chord (a complaint?) while the “Celebration Song” was peaceful and melodious. Ruari then came forward in his striking gold lamé suit (see photo) and started by conducting the audience as we sang Frère Jacques as a two-part canon. Holding his partly-dismantled trumpet he showed us how it worked: first that one could play five notes of “Auld Lang Syne” (rather badly) on the 4-inch mouthpiece, then demonstrating how the valves controlled each bit of tubing as he added them. Finally, the whole quintet joined in and played John Iveson’s variations on Frère Jacques – a gorgeous set of interacting phrases to which the brass instruments were perfectly suited. The concert ended with “Just a Closer Walk”, which starts as a lovely, restful tune and ends as a brisker piece of traditional jazz; it was greatly appreciated, especially by one of our youngest audience members.



I have rarely, if ever, been to a more relaxed, less po-faced performance, which the instrumentalists seemed to enjoy as much as the listeners and, as Alastair Keil commented while thanking the players, “we haven’t just heard some lovely, majestic music, we’ve also had a history lesson and had audience participation and instruction in the functioning of the trumpet”.

Barry Hughes



## INTERNATIONAL VISITORS JOIN US AT MUSIC AND MEMORIES



We had a couple of special visitors at our Music and Memories group in early June, Mr Fang Jun, from the Amity Foundation in China and Gillian Mckinnon from the Scottish Churches China Group. They were introduced to us through Lyn and David Mitchell who are active members of that group. Fang Jun was keen to find out more about what we do in Morningside Hope, particularly how we recruit and engage with

our volunteers and how we secure funding for our on-going work. Both Gillian and Fang Jun enjoyed singing with us and are seen above with a few of us at the end of our session.

The Scottish Churches China Group (SCCG) is an ecumenical charity, formed in 1983, which is engaged with partners and projects in China, particularly those specialising in education and public health. The SCCG brings together representatives from the main Christian churches and fellowships in Scotland. Its current areas of support include the development of palliative care as a recognised medical discipline, physical rehabilitation, special needs education and dementia care. The SCCG has a particularly close relationship with Shingling Hospital in Shenyang, which was founded by Scottish Christian medical missionary Dr Dugald Christie in 1883. More information on their website: [www.sccg.org.uk](http://www.sccg.org.uk)

Mr Fang Jun is a fairly senior member of staff at the Amity Foundation, an NGO based in Nanjing. He has responsibility for the online fundraising that Amity does. For this visit, he wanted to improve his fluency in spoken English, to learn more about British / western culture first-hand, and to learn how to engage donors and volunteers in a charity. More information about the Amity Foundation is on their website: <https://amityfoundation.org/eng/>

## PLAYLIST FOR LIFE

We continue to build a good relationship with Boroughmuir High School and, in June, twelve of their senior pupils joined our Playlist for Life (PLFL) training day. The pupils have all signed up to work alongside us creating playlists over the next 12 months with anyone in the church and wider community who would be interested in doing so.



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

The focus of PLFL is to create personal musical playlists, in particular to help those living with dementia; to reduce anxiety, improve mood, evoke memories and the like, but we are keen to create playlists for others too who might be interested. If you or someone you know might benefit from or be interested in this, please let me know. I'm sure there are some bright young pupils who would be keen to work with you.

I was very grateful at the training to both Laura Shaw and Ruth Henderson who also attended the training and kindly agreed to be guinea pigs, allowing the pupils to try out their skills.

[pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

Jacqui Lindsay  
07834 364 628

---

### MORNINGSIDE HOPE QUIZ AND SILENT AUCTION



It was a lot of work, but the quiz night and silent auction was a huge success. With over a hundred people in attendance, there was chewing of pencils, heated debates, great hilarity and that was just the auction!

We are in the debt of all those who donated items and talents along with all those who bid so generously. We are also very grateful to the young people from George Watson's and Boroughmuir who worked so hard all evening helping with the smooth running of the event.

But the evening would not have been possible without the Keils. Our wonderful quiz Master Alistair and his beautiful and hard-working score keeper Karen not only worked tirelessly all evening but had been instrumental in the planning and preparation that went in beforehand.

The evening raised an amazing £3,000.

To everyone who made the night such success – THANK YOU from us all at Morningside Hope.

Jacqui Lindsay





### **EGYPT – LUXOR TO ASWAN, A LOVELY WAY TO SPEND AN AFTERNOON**

At the end of June, we had our annual Morningside Hope Talk. Mr. Eric Melvin presented a lively and entertaining illustrated talk entitled **Egypt – Luxor to Aswan**. He guided us from ancient Egypt to modern times and spoke eloquently for some 50 minutes. We are very grateful to Mr Melvin for giving up his afternoon to entertain us so royally.

We enjoyed it so much we've asked him to come back next year to speak to us, this time about Edinburgh. Watch this space!

### **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING**

This group re-starts for the Autumn on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September in the Cluny Hall from 7.30-9.00pm. This small group are friendly and welcome beginners to those who just wish to keep up their interest in this excellent form of exercise - mental, physical and social. We "reely" have an enjoyable evening.

For further information, please contact Catriona Reid, 07929 866669



**Some harvest squash**

## WEDNESDAY CLUB FOR THE DISABLED – SUMMER OUTINGS



Due to an increase in vehicle hire charges, we decided to offer only two outings this summer: the annual trip to Biggar and a cruise on the Union Canal.

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July seven Club members gathered at the Church Hall before setting off for Biggar. Despite being overcast, the rain did not materialise, and we disembarked at the Gillespie Centre for morning coffee and a selection of freshly baked scones.

Suitably refreshed, we drove to the Bowling Club where we were made most welcome prior to being served a two-course lunch. Following lunch, we were split into mixed rinks made up from members of the Bowling Club and Wednesday Club, matched with suitably sized and weighted bowls, and led out to the Green where we completed eight ends of bowls with varying degrees of success. Back indoors, we

enjoyed a period of relaxation with the Bowling Club members while appreciating the coffee and biscuits that were provided before heading home around 5:00pm. In case you were wondering, the weather finally caught up with us and we drove through a very heavy downpour, but it was short-lived, and we arrived back in Edinburgh, as we left, under overcast skies.

This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of Biggar Bowling Club's involvement with the Wednesday Club. In the early sixties when the numbers attending the annual holiday were more than we could transport with our sole tail-lift vehicle, the Bowling Club members would drive up to Wiston Lodge and ferry the men down to the bowling green. When the numbers attending the holiday started to drop, we drove the men down and the Bowling Club provided the entertainment. This arrangement continued until 2004 which was the last year the holiday was held in the Maranatha Centre, and we thought that that would be the end of the association, but this was not to be the case. Since 2005, the Bowling Club has continued to invite and welcome us each year and, going by what they said this year, it looks like the association is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. The Wednesday Club is much indebted to the Biggar Bowling Club for their help and continued interest over the years.

For our second outing, six Club members and four volunteer helpers met at the Church Hall on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> August before setting off for Seagull Trust Cruises, based at Ratho. We were booked on the "St John Edinburgh" 12 noon sailing which would take us from Ratho to Bridge 21, somewhat beyond the Almondell Aqueduct but, as it turned out the wind was a bit too strong for the barge to venture across the aqueduct, so we turned round and reversed partly onto the aqueduct so that we could see the River Almond below and enjoy the view while we enjoyed our picnic lunch. After lunch we pottered – there is no other way to describe the meandering progress of a barge – back to Ratho, where we disembarked to return to the church hall.

On behalf of the Club members and myself, I would like to thank the volunteers who gave of their time and provided the transport for the Biggar outing and the volunteers who gave of their time to staff the outing to Ratho – without your help it would be impossible to undertake these ventures.

**Charles S Wilson, Club Coordinator**

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



## HARVEST SERVICE - FOODBANK

This year's Harvest Service is to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September and, once again, provides us with an opportunity to donate to the Blythwood Care SE Edinburgh Foodbank based at Southhouse Broadway, a charity we have been supporting for a number of years.

The Foodbank serves the EH16 and EH17 postal areas and issues food parcels to those who have been referred to it by the health sector, support agencies and other charitable bodies. The reasons for people being referred are varied but include health issues, in work poverty, loss of support from family and friends, fleeing domestic violence and low/insufficient income. Last year SE Foodbank issued food to 1388 people, 40% of whom were children. This required 25 tonnes of food to provide these people with emergency support.

Harvest is an important time of the year for Foodbanks, as it enables them to stock up on essential food and toiletries needed over the winter months. The items which are particularly in short supply at the moment include tinned meat, fish, vegetables and fruit, cooking sauces, coffee, tea, UHT milk, cereals, long life fruit juice, sponge puddings, jam and instant mash potato. If you would prefer to make a financial donation, this can be done via online banking - if you note that your donation is for the SE Foodbank, it will go directly into the SE Foodbank fund. Payment can be made to the named account Blythwood Care, the account number is 10413664 and the sort code 80-91-26. The Foodbank also requires plastic carrier bags, into which the goods for the clients are packed, so donations of these would also be welcome. Please hand any donations into the Braid Hall immediately before the 10.30am Service.

The Foodbank cannot accept fresh fruit or vegetables or jars of homemade jam or marmalade. Also, please do remember when donating any items that they must be in date. A number of members of the Congregation make donations of food and money throughout the year, but the Harvest Service is an occasion when everyone can be involved and contribute towards helping alleviate food poverty within our locality. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity – it is hugely appreciated by all those who use the Foodbank and by the volunteers who help run it.



Finally, if anyone can help with receiving the food donations on the 28<sup>th</sup>, or is available (with a car!) to take the donations to Southhouse on the morning of Monday 29<sup>th</sup>, please contact Fiona Stewart on 531 9688 or see her at Church one Sunday – around 5 volunteers each day would be an enormous help.



2025 AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES



# Ecology matters

WELLBEING OF CREATION & HUMANITY

📍 **Morningside Parish Church, Cluny Gardens**

🕒 **Sundays 7–8pm** | ☕ **Refreshments from 6:30pm**

📺 **Join in person or livestream:** [morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](https://morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

🎟️ **Free entry – donations welcome at the door**



7 SEPT

## Ecology, The Climate and The Need for Action

**Dr Mike Robinson OBE**

As Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and Chair of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, Mike Robinson has been instrumental in informing sustainability and climate change for 25 years.



14 SEPT

## The Unstoppable Power of Hope: Christian Aid at 80

**Val Brown**

Val Brown is Head of Christian Aid in Scotland. She has served on the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council, chaired their Middle East Committee and currently chairs their ethical oversight committee.



21 SEPT

## Nature's Genius: Evolution's Lessons for a Changing Planet

**Professor David Farrier**

David Farrier is Professor of Literature and the Environment at the University of Edinburgh, and author of Nature's Genius: Evolution's Lessons for a Changing Planet and Footprints: In search of Future Fossils.

## FLOWER LIST

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
September	7	Bob Stevenson	Ruth Henderson
	14	Marie Taylor	Joan Burnett
	21	Moirra Clark	Marjory Watson
	28	HARVEST THANKSGIVING	FLOWER COMMITTEE



I would like to thank all those who have offered to donate money for the flowers. The cost is £45 and cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



## CHRISTIAN AID CONCERT

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 7pm,  
Greenbank Parish Church

The Heart and Soul Swing Band will be performing at a concert for Christian Aid at Greenbank on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm. The band of up to 20 members

was founded by Rev Dr Robin Hill who is a Church of Scotland minister in East Lothian. They now perform exclusively to raise funds for Christian Aid and one of the conditions is that the fundraising is donation only on the night with no advance ticket sales. Entrance will be by donation.

Some may remember that the Swing Band performed in Morningside Parish Church some years ago when they were raising funds for the Church of Scotland HIV project in Africa.

## **SPEAKER SUPPER: SIR PAUL GRICE - WHAT VALUE SHOULD WE PLACE ON HIGHER EDUCATION?**

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 7.30pm

Our next speaker supper is at the end of October. The speaker will be Sir Paul Grice, FRSE, FAcSS. He graduated from the University of Stirling 1984 and joined the Civil Service through the "Fast Stream" programme in 1985. Sir Paul worked in various Civil Service roles in Whitehall from 1985 to 1992 and the Scottish Office 1992 to 1999 and was Clerk and Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament 1999 -2019. Sir Paul was knighted in the New Year's Honours List 2016, and elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh 2018, and Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences 2020. He was appointed Principal and Vice Chancellor of Queen Margaret University Edinburgh in 2019.

Tickets will be on sale in September, priced £25.



### **ROLL CHANGES**

Please remember in your prayers  
the family and friends of:

Mrs Margaret Howat who died on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025,  
missing her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by a few months.

Miss Isabel Duncan who died on 11 August 2025

### **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.





## **THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR HOME SUPPORT, SCOTTISH CHARITY SC004365**

The charity began in 1805. We were granted a royal charter in 1903 (Royal Society for Home Support for Incurables) and in 2024 became The Royal Society for Home Support. We remain committed to our original mission of providing essential support to individuals who have lost employment due to health reasons.

### **Do you know someone who could benefit from our support?**

We give financial support and assistance to adults who are unable to work because of a medical condition that is permanent or likely to be permanent or is potentially life-limiting.

They must have been in paid employment, but no longer able to work due to their condition.

They must live at home in an EH postcode area.

They must be under state pension age.

They must be solely or mainly reliant on benefits.

### **How can we help?**

We give financial assistance in the form of either

- An annuity of £750 paid half yearly in April and October. Annuities are awarded for three years and may be renewed following a review.

OR

- A one-off grant of up to £750 for specific needs, for example white goods, furniture, clothing, equipment.

We cannot support applications from people who are alcohol or substance dependent, nor anybody who is subject to bankruptcy or voluntary arrangements or seeking to fund payment of debts.

### **How to apply**

The application can be completed online at [rshs.org.uk](https://rshs.org.uk), or can be printed for completion and submitted via email or post to the Society:

#### **RSHS, Azets**

1st Floor, Quay 2  
139 Fountainbridge  
Edinburgh EH3 9QG

**Telephone No:** 0131 473 3500

**Email:** [SM-Charity@azets.co.uk](mailto:SM-Charity@azets.co.uk)

### **Letter of support**

Applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from someone who knows the applicant well but not a family member. Usually, it is from a healthcare worker (such as a Doctor, Health Visitor or Nurse) or a Social Worker. It can also come from someone supporting the applicant, such as a charity or religious group.

For more information, please see the website [rshs.org.uk](https://rshs.org.uk)

## OCTOBER MAGAZINE

Material for the October issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 19 September** and it will be available by Sunday 5 October. Contributions should be emailed to [editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk) or put in her pigeonhole at the church

---

### **DEIRDRE REMEMBERS A SCOTTISH GLEN** *Irish author unknown, C14th*

Glen of fruit and fish and pools, its peaked hills of loveliest  
Wheat, it is distressful for me to think of it - glen of bees,  
Of long-horned wild oxen.

Glen of cuckoos and thrushes and blackbirds, precious is its  
Cover to every fox; glen of wild garlic and watercress, of  
Woods, of shamrock and flowers, leafy and twisting-crested.

Sweet are the cries of the brown-backed dappled deer  
Under the oak-wood above the bare hill-tops, gentle hinds  
That are timid lying hidden in the great-treed glen.

Glen of the rowans with scarlet berries, with fruit fit for  
Every flock of birds; slumbrous paradise for the badgers in  
Their quiet burrows with their young.

Glen of the blue-eyed vigorous hawks, glen abounding in  
Every harvest, glen of the ridged and pointed peaks, glen  
Of blackberries and sloes and apples.

Glen of the sleek brown round-faced otters that are pleasant  
And active in fishing; many are the white-winged stately  
Swans, and salmon breeding along the rocky brink.

Glen of the tangled branching yews, dewy glen with level  
Lawn of kine; chalk-white starry sunny glen, glen of graceful  
Pearl-like high-bred women.



Minister: Very Rev Dr Derek Browning	447 1617	<a href="mailto:derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk">derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>
Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay	07834 364 628	<a href="mailto:pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk">pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</a>
Magazine Editor: Alison Riddell	445 2330	<a href="mailto:editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk">editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</a>
Church Administrator: Gail Burns	447 6745	<a href="mailto:office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk">office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk</a>

[www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk)

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