



Magazine

No. 204 November 2025

Dear Friends

For some years I have conducted a service in Morningside Cemetery on or near the anniversary of Armistice Day - this year Tuesday 11 November, 10.45am. Initially the event was for the Primary 7 children at South Morningside Primary School where I am chaplain. The children are guided round the cemetery by volunteers from the Friends of

Morningside Cemetery, who work to develop ties with local history to our community.

There is a short service where children lay down poppies, and a wreath is provided by William Purves

The cemetery is an official Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery containing 49 graves from World War I and 32 from World War II. Some of the people on our Church War Memorials are buried in the cemetery.

In the north-east section of the cemetery, near Balcarres Street, you will find the Cross of Remembrance, sometimes known as the Cross of Sacrifice. After the carnage of the First World War, recognising that many who died had no marked graves, a national decision was taken to commission a design that could be used across the

country. A bronze longsword, blade down, is affixed to the front of the cross. It is usually mounted on an octagonal base. The Cross of Sacrifice is widely praised, widely imitated, and the archetypal British war memorial.

In its simplicity and starkness there is no room for glorification of war or chivalric romanticism.

Any war, every war, is a messy, desperate business, where heroism and cowardice mix all too easily and, whatever the 'victory' may be, at the end it is always tempered by what and who was lost. Where the ongoing effects result in both helpful and unhelpful shaping of history. It is often said that there are no absolute winners in a time of war: the Somme, Monte Cassino, Korea, the Falklands, Iraq, Ukraine, Gaza.

Today we struggle on toward maintaining and sustaining peace. Wearying but essential work, in the hope that all life is cherished and valued, and for those who are Christian, that the principles of peace with justice, compassion with charity, and perseverance with hope will continue. Again, and again.

Very Revd Dr Derek
Browning



***Father and mother they put aside,
and the nearer love also—***

***An hundred thousand men who
died whose graves shall no man
know.***

***And the last land he found, it was
fair and level ground***

About a carven stone,

***And a stark Sword brooding on
the bosom of the Cross***

***Where high and low are one.
Rudyard Kipling***

WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday 2 November is All Saints Sunday, where we reflect on what it is to be 'blessed', and on saints, past and present.

Sunday 9 November is Remembrance Sunday. There will be no 9.30am Service, but, as usual, one joint service at 10.45am in the Church. Please invite friends and neighbours to the service.

Sunday 30 November, as well as being St Andrew's Day, is also the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a season observed in many Christian denominations as a time of waiting and preparation for both the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. Since approximately the C13th the usual liturgical colour for Advent in Western Christianity is violet or purple, so on that Sunday we normally use our purple pulpit fall. Purple is also used at Lent, a colour traditionally associated with reflection and introspection.

We also have an Advent Crown, situated near the eagle lectern. It is traditionally made from fir, a symbol of strength, and laurel, a symbol of victory over sin and suffering. Those trees, along with holly, do not lose their leaves, and thus represent the eternity of God. The candles' flames are the representation of the Christmas light approaching and bringing hope and peace, as well as the symbol of the struggle against darkness. For Christians, this crown is also the symbol of Christ the King, the holly recalling the crown of thorns resting on the head of Christ. The Advent Crown is adorned with candles, usually three violet or purple and one pink. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, called 'Gaudete Sunday' after the opening word, *Gaudete*, meaning 'Rejoice', 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice' taken from Paul's Letter to the Philippians. The fifth candle (white), known as the "Christ candle", in the middle of the wreath, is lit as Christmas Eve turns into Christmas Day at our Watchnight Service.



Sacrament of the Lord's Supper - Sunday 7 December

We share communion in Church at 9.30am and 10.30am. At the 10.30am service, if anyone wishes to receive the wine of communion from the Common Cup, please join the Minister at the small table situated near the vestibule door.

READER IN TRAINING - GRAEME ALLAN

Graeme Allan, a member of Corstorphine Old Parish Church, is a Reader in training in our Presbytery. He will continue his training with our congregation from November 2025 to April 2026.

Readership is a 'ministry of the Word'. It is one of the oldest forms of 'ministry' in the Church, being established at the time the Reformation in 1560 when there were not enough Ministers of Word and Sacrament, so people with a good education were trained to 'read' services in Church on Sundays. As more full-time Ministers of Word and Sacrament were recruited and ordained, the Office of Reader fell into abeyance. The Office of Reader has undergone considerable change in recent years. Restored during the First World War as a way of providing pulpit supply in emergencies, it gradually became accepted as a regular ministry within the Church, as it is today.

Readers serve under the supervision of a Presbytery and are commissioned locally by the Church to conduct worship, preach and, in some cases, offer pastoral care. In some circumstances they can also act as locums during vacancies, and can work across or beyond a Presbytery boundary. A Reader can also be attached to a congregation for an agreed period of time.

Opportunities for service:

- Can provide pulpit supply at the invitation of a minister, or conduct worship regularly in situations where there is no minister.
 - Can, when attached to a congregation, engage in service in a variety of ways, including conduct of worship, funerals, chaplaincy, school assemblies and related pastoral work as a member of a ministry team.
 - Cannot conduct the sacraments either within the Church of Scotland, or when invited to by another denomination.
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KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in October and discussed the following:

The Moderator led the opening devotions with a reading and reflection, and the meeting was constituted with prayer in which the Moderator paid tribute and gave thanks for the life of Hugh Crawford, a senior elder who had for many years made available both to this church and the Presbytery his professional skills as an architect. The Moderator also welcomed to the meeting two of the four elders recently ordained.

Presbytery Reform - The Clerk reported that since the last Session meeting there had been no further meetings with representatives of three churches or Presbytery. The next meeting of the four representatives from each of the three churches would be at Fairmilehead on 23 October.

Committee Reports –

Property: Moira Clark, Convenor reported on a number of property works, including progress on consultation about the significant repairs required for the church roof and south aisle (where rain water is coming in and onto the Braid Hall corridor). After costs have been established and agreed, work may begin in June 2026.

Social: Fiona Stimpson, Convenor reported that it had been another busy year for the Social Committee, but a lot of fun had been had. The congregation and many visitors to the Church seemed to appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to meet and chat over coffees; friendships were both made and maintained at this time and many new members said that the welcome they received (as well as the Moderator's preaching and the music) was instrumental in them deciding to join MPC. In May, Helen Duffy made a beautifully decorated cake to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day which was served with coffees after the 10.30 service.

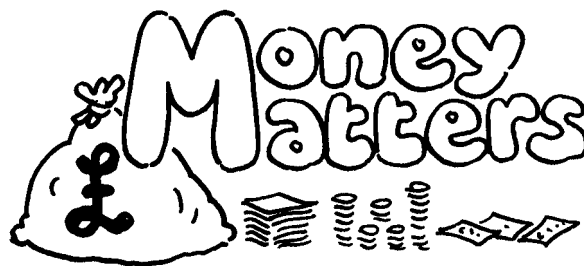
The touchy subject of costs: Everyone who shopped for food would realise that on each visit to the supermarket the prices of items you bought regularly had gone up - particularly coffee, cheese and butter. The donations on Sundays for coffees and biscuits (often chocolate ones!) have not similarly increased. They didn't arrive by magic - they had to be bought and we are spending considerably more on all we buy!

Future Events; Once again coffee and hot mince pies and brandy cream would be served on 13 and 20 December for the **Christmas Tree Festival** between 10.00 and 12.00. On the Sunday in between, **Mulled wine and Christmas Treats** would be served at coffee time. **Next year** we would organise an **Afternoon Tea** on Saturday 15 August. None of these events would be possible without the fantastic, willing support of our caretakers.

Session welcomed the report, and thanked the Social Committee and its supporters with a spontaneous round of applause.

Stewardship & Finance - Euan Murray, Treasurer reported on the committee's discussion on **Tackling the Deficit**.

The Stewardship and Finance committee would bring forward a deficit reduction budget proposal in December. Ahead of that we wanted to float some proposals to the Session which we thought should be explored or implemented if we were serious about deficit reduction. They included:



Heating Costs: Our gas bills for heating represent one of our biggest cost headings. Temperatures are very hard to get right to please everyone, but for every degree we adjust the temperature in the Church, we are looking at a saving of between 1-10% dependent on the building.

Session's response: An unannounced trial the previous Sunday of reducing the temperature in the sanctuary to 16 degrees had been noticed unfavourably by many in the congregation and choir. It was suggested that this temperature was too low. The temperature level in the halls was more difficult particularly where heating controls were accessible, as different groups wanted different temperatures depending on the use they were making of the room - sedentary or active. The caretakers should continue to monitor the setting between lets.

Subsidised Rentals: a number of groups got to use the church or halls at no charge. Some made meaningful donations, others didn't. Moreover, reserving space for such tenants prevented us letting the premises to other commercial lets, which was an opportunity cost. Some of our free users were the most onerous to cater for in terms of cleaning and caretaking. This needed sensitive handling. The proposal was to move all onto our charity letting tariffs over a sensible period. Session supported a review of users of discounts and no-charge users.

Saturday, Sunday afternoon and other lettings: At present, we generally didn't let our property on a Saturday. For weekend lets, there were concerns over the arrangements for security, supervision, cleaning, first aid cover, wear and tear along with set up for use on Sundays and early Monday. Any let had to reflect these concerns.

Cleaning and gardening: gardening services cost us around £3,000 per annum. Session had mixed views and was not persuaded that an eco-wild flower approach would result in cost savings and it would certainly affect the appearance. Cleaning costs come to some £23,000 per annum. Session welcomed a review but recognised the benefits of a contractor to cover unsocial hours when the work needed to be done prior to the halls being occupied.

Umbrella Campaign - Kerry Watt had been working up ideas for an Umbrella Festival in February 2026 with a target of raising £50,000. The exciting proposals included: decorating the church, the church grounds and railings with umbrella art and sculptures; sponsorship by local businesses and individuals linking church and the Morningside trading and wider community; an umbrella trail (with prizes) through Morningside using miniature umbrellas for window displays; linking the umbrella art with centre users, Heart for Art, schools, etc. The aim would be to mobilise support from the wider community as well as the congregation and church centre users. As Kerry was absent, the proposals would be brought to the November Session. Session welcomed Kerry's initiative as an exciting and imaginative proposal but was concerned about a number of practical issues, particularly that on the basis of present information we could not be ready for a February event. Session asked for more information and more detail.



Morningside Hope



DATES for 2025

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

Held every **Tuesday** in the St Matthew's Hall 11- 1pm

Annual Art Exhibition: Saturday 29 November (same day as the concert – see below).



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

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

November: Mondays 3 & 17

December: Mondays 1 & 15 (Christmas Party)

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 specific **Mondays** in the Cluny Hall 2-4pm

November: Mondays 10 & 24

December: Monday 8 (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

19 November;

17 December (Christmas Party)

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERT: Open to everyone, the concert lasts 40 – 45mins and is followed by teas and coffees.

Saturday 29 November, 2pm

George Heriot's 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

Venues may be subject to change: please check with the office



L-R: Jane Rimer (cello), Judith Buttars (viola), Lindsay Pell (violin 2), Sarah Stuart (violin 1)

MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERT

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

A large appreciative audience listened to a String Quartet with Sarah Stuart (Music teacher, first violin), Lindsay Pell (BBC Producer, second violin), Judith Buttars (Music teacher, viola) and Jane Rimer (Consultant Physician, cello).

They opened with the third movement of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 - a lively Allegro - followed by Bach's chorale *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* with its perfect intertwining melodies. Then came the Allegro from Mozart's *Divertimento in G Major* - a cheerful little movement. Next was Edvard

Grieg's *Wedding Day in Trolldhaugen*, written for his wife to commemorate their 25th anniversary, opening with an energetic march then a slower, more graceful section. *Moonlight in Vermont* followed - originally sung by Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald - initially mournful but then gracefully rhythmical. The quartet gave us an arrangement of *On the Bonnie, Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond*, dating back to the 1845 rebellion; followed by Elgar's *Chanson de Matin*, with its beautiful, lyrical melody.

They signed off with McMozart's *Eine Kleine Bricht Moonlicht Nicht Musik* - a mash-up of Mozart and half a dozen well-known Scottish and Tyneside tunes - including Scotland the Brave, Weel may the Keel Row and Auld Lang Syne. Written by Professor Edward Bor as an encore, it has been described as a mixture of Mozart and haggis. Great fun - for anyone who wasn't at the concert an orchestral version is well worth listening to (* below).

A splendid mix of music from the early 18th to the 20th century, which was not only thoroughly enjoyable but also raised £700+ for Morningside Hope.

*Search Google for: YouTube The Purple Symphony: McMozart Eine Kleine Bricht

Barry Hughes

THE ALPACAS WOW US ONCE AGAIN!

Our latest Animal Afternoon, which took place on Wednesday 8 October, saw a return visit of three gorgeous alpacas from our local alpaca farm. The afternoon was another roaring success with 80+ people attending. Our youngest attendee was a babe in arms, our oldest probably one of those in the large group from Cluny Lodge. Our friends from Speakability, who were meeting in the Braid Hall that same afternoon, popped in too which was great.

Jacqui Lindsay (07834 364 628)



GIFT SERVICE - SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2025

By popular demand the Gift Service on 16 November is once again to be for the Edinburgh Clothing Store. Every year the congregation has been amazingly generous to the Clothing Store. We are extremely grateful for the generosity which has been shown by the donations both of new clothes for children and of money which have allowed us to buy items which are in short supply.

As we said last year, due to the cost of living increase, many more people are wearing their clothes longer and many are selling their good quality clothes online. This has had a continued detrimental effect on the amount and quality of the second-hand clothes which have been donated over the past year. We are therefore having to buy even more to meet the continued need of children who are living in abject poverty in our city. We have a desperate need for warm clothing for all.

On the two Sundays prior to 16 November, labels will be laid out on two tables at the back of the church. Each label will have an item of clothing and the age of the boy or girl to whom this item will go. If you would like to give a gift, we are offering 4 options.

Option 1 Please take one or more labels
Buy an appropriate item or items
Attach the label or labels

Bring on Sunday 16 November to the tables below the pulpit before the 10.30 service.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS

Option 2 - If you cannot come to church on 16 November but can on 9 November, please bring your gift(s) to the box below the elders' pigeon holes.

Option 3 - If you cannot come to church on either Sunday, contact Fiona Gossip who is once again willing to collect items from your home. She can be contacted on 07850 338 908 in November from Monday - Friday between 10.00am and 6.00pm or email her at fiona.gossip@outlook.com.

Option 4 - if you prefer not to go shopping, cash or cheque donations are also most welcome. Please make cheques payable to The Edinburgh Clothing Store. If you wish to gift aid your donations, please include a note with your name and address and post code, state that you are a taxpayer and sign the note.

I cannot tell you how much difference your generosity has made in the past and how excited the children are to receive new clothes which they really need. This year, more than ever before there is a huge need.

Thank you so much in anticipation.

Fiona Stimpson

***Please note that the Gift Service is the Sunday BEFORE the Coffee Morning this year.**

EDINBURGH CLOTHING STORE COFFEE MORNING - SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER

The Edinburgh Clothing Store (Charity no: SC039409) is holding its 13th annual Coffee Morning - with a variety of stalls - on Saturday 22 November from 10.00am - 12.00. The event will be held in the Sanctuary of Morningside Parish Church.



Last year raised the highest amount ever and we are hoping to break that record this year. So please come again, or for the first time, and help us to make this another very successful and happy event.

Coffee and cream scones will be served, as before, at tables in the centre of the Sanctuary with stalls at the front and at the sides. It is so lovely to see the Sanctuary being used in this way and it provides more space for people to circulate.

Tickets, at £5 for adults and £2 for children, can be bought from ECS helpers or at the door.

All the volunteers who run the Clothing Store would like this to be another huge success. The numbers being referred for help are on the increase again and, as we all know, the cost of everything (apart from the price of our tickets!) has increased. Running costs and the cost of items of clothing which have to be bought have soared in cost, so please help us to make this a great success.

Please come to meet up with friends from across the city and have a happy morning with an amazing end result which will help us to help the most vulnerable who are in genuine need in our community.

CONCERT AND ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

Saturday 29 November is a date for the diary! Our last concert of 2025 will bring us George Heriot's School Chamber Choir alongside our Annual Heart for Art exhibition.



Entry is by donation and everyone is welcome.

2pm sees the concert start and 3.15pm is the official launch of the exhibition.

We look forward to welcoming you on the day.

Edinburgh: Morningside Parish Church of Scotland: Scottish Charity No: SC034396

HARVEST COLLECTION - THANK YOU!

This year's Harvest collection for the SE Edinburgh Foodbank resulted in donations of 274 kg – another fantastic total. In addition, £240 was received in financial donations, of which £100 was from the sale of fruit and vegetables from the produce display in the Church. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these hugely successful totals. In recent weeks, there has been a



noticeable upturn in the number of people requesting food parcels from the Foodbank – the rising costs of buying food and the impact of energy price rises having a bearing on this increase. This means that our donations, whether of goods or of money, make a significant difference to the Foodbank's ability to meet this rise in demand and to support those most in need.

In recent years, Harvest has been our main "event" for assisting the work of the Foodbank, but donations of food/toiletries and money can be made throughout the year. There is a large plastic container, clearly labelled, in the Braid corridor into which tinned goods, jars of coffee, bags of rice and pasta, biscuits, cereals and sweets can be placed. If anyone would prefer to make a financial contribution this can be done via online banking – if you note that the donation is to go to the SE Foodbank it will go directly into its funds. Payment can be made to the Blythswood Care account,

account number 10413664, sort code 80-91-26. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please place the money in a sealed envelope marked Foodbank and give it to Fiona Stewart, who is also happy to answer any Foodbank related questions.

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped behind the scenes to make the collection such a huge success – those who set up the Church and hall, who collected and sorted all the bags of donations and to those who transported the crates, boxes and bags on the Monday morning. It is a huge team effort but well worth it - the volunteers at Southhouse were amazed at the continued generosity of the Congregation and were greatly appreciative of it.

Fiona Stewart





CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

13 – 20 DECEMBER 2025

We are again having the Tree Festival which is intended to bring cheer in what can be a stressful time of year. There will be fifteen trees this year and each tree is decorated in such a way as to inform as to what each organisation offers.

This year, again, Rona McLaren is running the craft stall which is popular as well as profitable. All crafted items are welcome but she would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Because there are only four Sundays this December and the first one is Communion, the event will take place from 13 - 20 December. It'll

be open on the two Saturdays from 10 am until 2 pm with refreshments being sold on these two days from 10 am until 12 noon. On weekdays, opening times are 10 am until 12 noon when we aim to invite visitors from local care homes and nurseries.

Entry will be by donation though you may, instead, want to buy some raffle tickets. Beneficiaries this year will be Morningside Hope and the David Nott Foundation.

We hope to see you there.

Issie Paterson



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of the following members who died recently:

Mrs Emily Bruce, who died on 29 September 2025,
Mrs Joyce Robertson, who died on 14 October 2025, and of
Bryce Haggart, who died on 16 October 2025

Please give a warm welcome to the following newly admitted members:

By Resolution of the Kirk Session: Richard and Kathryn Anderson

By Certificate of Transference: Iain and Jennifer Macfarlane

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

FLOWER LIST

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
November	2	Ian Hastie	Irene Wilson
	9	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Marjory Watson
	16	Fiona Spencer	Eleanor Watt
	23	Dora Cossar	Joan Burnet
	30	Penny Graham	Penny Graham & Liz Munro



The new flower list for 2026 is now available on the vestibule noticeboard. If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date. The cost remains at £45. Cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund' or payment can be made by bank transfer if preferred. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes or advise me if you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be given to a member of the Committee, put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office clearly marked for the Flower Fund. Please contact me direct on 0131 449 2866 or e-mail: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com if you require details to make a bank transfer.

Do you have a talent for, or would like to try your hand at, flower arranging? Pending the imminent retirement of one of our members, and another who is reducing the number of weeks in the year when she is available, we would be delighted to welcome new members to join our team. Men are also most welcome - you can serve coffee so I'm sure you could arrange flowers too. Even if you are only available for a few weeks a year it would help.

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



Christmas Tree festival craft stall

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

DECEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the December issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 14 November** and it will be available by Sunday 30 November. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk or put in her pigeonhole at the church.

Please note that there is no magazine in January.

PEACE *by Robert Graves*

When that glad day shall break to match
“Before-the-War” with “Since-the-Peace”,
And up I climb to twist new thatch
Across my cottage roof, while geese
Stand stiffly there below and vex
The yard with hissing from long necks,
In that immense release,
That shining day, shall we hear said:
“New wars to-morrow, more men dead”?

When peace time comes and horror’s
over,
Despair and darkness like a dream,
When fields are ripe
with corn and clover,
The cool white dairy full
of cream,
Shall we work happily
in the sun,



And think “It’s over now and done”,
Or suddenly shall we seem
To watch a second bristling shadow
Of armed men move across the meadow?

Will it be over once for all,
With no more killed and no more maimed;
Shall we be safe from terror’s thrall,
The eagle caged, the lion tamed;
Or will the young of that vile brood,
The young ones also, suck up blood
Unconquered, unashamed,
Rising again with lust and thirst?

Better we all had died at
first,
Better that killed before
our prime
We rotted deep in
earthy slime.

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