

Intimations 7th December 2025

1. **Today: Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:** 9.30am (in the Church) and 10.30am. The theme – Prepare the Way. Tea and coffee are served after the 10.30am service in the St Matthew Hall. Please remember to give an appropriate donation.
2. **Wednesday Club:** A retiring collection will be taken after both Communion Services today in aid of the Wednesday Club for the disabled. Donations will be put towards the day-to-day running of the Club and the costs incurred in hiring adapted vehicles to transport the members to and from the Club meetings.
3. **The December Church magazine** is available today. Items for the February edition are due on Friday 16th January 2026 and should be sent to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk
4. **The Kirk Session** meets on Tuesday 9th December at 7.30pm in the Braid Hall.
5. **Morningside Hope Concert & Art exhibition:** Thank you to everyone who helped make last Saturday such a huge success. The music was sublime, the art breathtaking and the atmosphere just heartwarming. Everyone was so generous and donations, once gift aid is added, will amount to £1,448.50! Thank you so much for all your continued amazing support.
6. **Jam, Baking & Making Stall:** The amount raised last Sunday was £267.00. The overall total from the 11 stalls held this year amounts to £3,150.00, an astonishing amount which all goes towards our own church funds. Thank you everyone who has contributed in any way to make this stall such a great success. The next stall will be on Sunday 25th January 2026
7. **Christmas Decorations - A date for your diaries:** Our Christmas trees will be put up and decorated in the Sanctuary and in the Church grounds on Thursday, 11th December. As usual, we are looking for volunteers to help with this and if you can spare a couple of hours, you will be made most welcome. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided to keep your strength up. If you can join us, please meet at the Church at 10:00am
8. **Christmas Tree Exhibition Craft Stall:** Hopefully Morningside's Crafters are busy crafting for the Christmas Tree Festival Stall. Please make what you think people would like to buy. Please leave your finished items in Rona McLaren's pigeonhole - if they will fit, failing that please leave at the Church Office or catch her before or after Sunday Club any Sunday in the Braid Hall.

9. **Christmas Tree Festival 13th – 20th December:** We are hoping for your support for our Christmas Tree Festival this year. The two Saturdays: 13th and 20th December from 10 am – 2 pm are the main days when we will have our popular craft stall and also musical performances. On 13th at 11 am we look forward to seeing junior pupils from George Watson's College perform for us again. They were much appreciated last year. On 20th at 11 am some of our own choral scholars will make music for us. At 12.30 that same day, a group called *Laurentum* will offer vocal and instrumental music from the Middle Ages to the present day. This ensemble are singers from the Robin Chapel Choir. Refreshments will be offered on both Saturdays from 10am – 12noon in the Braid Hall. On weekdays the festival will be open each morning from 10am – 12noon when we hope to welcome visits from nurseries and care homes as well as anyone else from the community.
10. **Organ Music at Christmas concert:** Thursday 18th December, 12.30pm to 1.15pm. An informal "promenade" concert with traditional Christmas Organ music. You are free to come and go as you please, look at the trees, or sit and listen to the music. Entry by donation going towards our Choral Scholarship programme. Please do come - and bring your friends.
11. **Flower List 2026** - The Flower List is quickly filling up and only 7 dates remain to be filled namely 15 and 29 March, 26 April, 19 July, 6 and 13 September, and 6 December. If you would like to supply flowers on one of these Sundays, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date on the list on the vestibule noticeboard. The cost is £45 and cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund'. Payment can be made by bank transfer if you prefer. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please confirm that you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener or fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes. Monies can be put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office clearly marked for the Flower Committee. Please contact me direct on 0131 449 2866; e-mail: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com if you require details to make a bank transfer.
12. **Morningside Hope:**
Music and Memories - 2-4pm, workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers. The next workshop will be on Monday 15th December (Christmas Party) in the Cluny Hall.
Heart for Art workshop for those with dementia and their partners/carers, every Tuesday 11am - 1pm, in the St Matthew Hall.
Gentle Exercise Class – dementia-friendly and also open to all 60+.
Next classes on Monday 8th December (Christmas party) in the Church, 2-4pm.

Games Afternoon – dementia-friendly and open to everyone.
Wednesday 17th December (Christmas party) 2-4pm in the Braid Hall.

13. **Intimations:** If you wish to have intimations included in the Sunday order of service, please email these to the Church Office by **Thursday, 12 noon** at the latest

14. **South East Edinburgh Foodbank:** There has been a sharp increase in the number of people coming through the doors at Southhouse Broadway ahead of Christmas, always the busiest time of the year. If you can donate any of the following items towards this Appeal that would be hugely appreciated – they can be placed in the labelled plastic container beneath the pigeonholes in the Braid corridor. The items most required are tinned soup, tinned meat, tinned veg (particularly peas and carrots), instant mash, savoury biscuits, multipack crisps, Christmas chocolate and treats, non-alcoholic Christmas puddings, cakes and mince pies and, finally, crackers. Thank you in advance for supporting the Foodbank's efforts to feed and support people in our community over the Christmas period, often a challenging time for so many

15. **Fresh Start:** no further donations can be accepted at the moment.

16. **The Open Door: Day Services** - we have launched our new Wednesday service and are now delivering services 5 days per week, Monday to Friday. Places are available for anyone over 50 you know that would benefit from both practical assistance and a chance to socialise, with support from trained staff and volunteers, or for families in need of respite from caring for their loved ones. Day services help maintain independence, mobility and confidence, and delay the move into residential care. Please phone **Lynnette or Simon** on **0131-447-9757**, or drop in to talk with them.
Coffee and Cake donation days - thank you all for supporting our recent coffee and cake by donation day - it raised over £330 towards our day services transport costs. Our next coffee and cake day on **Wednesday 10th December 10.30am to 4.00pm** - everyone welcome!
Volunteers - we're recruiting Driver and Day Service Volunteers - please contact Lynnette or Simon (as above) if you, or someone you know can help.
Trustees - our Board is seeking 3 new Trustees with current experience in **business, marketing or HR** - please contact Lynnette or Simon (as above) if you, or someone you know would like to help The Open Door in this way.

17. **Weekly Email:** A weekly email can be emailed to you so that you can keep up to date with events going on in the life of the Church, particularly if you miss the Sunday intimations. If you would like the Weekly email

(and the Church Magazine), please email the Church Office to request. office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

18. **Christmas and New Year at Morningside:**

17th December: Telephone Choir carol singalong, 7.30pm, in the Church. Donations go towards supporting the Wednesday Club.

21st December: 9.30am Early Service (Cluny Hall)

10.30am Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols

3.00 pm Blue Christmas Service in the Church. A half hour service for those who find this time of year difficult or sad. Refreshments served in the St Matthew Hall

24th December: Christmas Eve 6.30pm All age service

Carols by Candlelight from 11.00pm

Watchnight Service 11.30pm

Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day retiring offerings will support the two Church Charities: The David Nott Foundation - Training doctors and medical staff working globally in areas of catastrophe conflict. Currently working in Libya, Somaliland, Sudan, South Sudan, Moldova, Ukraine, Iraq, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. And the Edinburgh Clothing Store a charity run by volunteers, offering clothing, shoes, bedding, curtains and towels for people in genuine need such as individuals and families who are on low income, or vulnerable through personal circumstances. It's a free service made possible by volunteers and donations.

25th December: Christmas Day service 10am

28th December: No 9.30am service. 10.30am Morning Worship
(No tea and coffee after the service)

4th January 2026: Epiphany

9.30am & 10.30am services resume

(Tea and coffee resume after the service)

19. **Next Sunday: 14th December, All-Age Christmas Service**

10.30am. *(No 9.30am Service. The Choir meets to practise in the Cluny Hall at 9.15am)* Christmas treats, mulled wine, tea and coffee are served after the 10.30am service in the St Matthew Hall. Please remember to give an appropriate donation. After this service we will require help to rearrange church chairs and relocate the staging in preparation for the South Morningside Primary School service in the following days.

Contact details:

Minister: The Very Revd Dr Derek Browning 0131 447 1617

Email: derek.browning@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Jacqui Lindsay 07834 364628

Email: pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org

Church Office: 0131 447 6745

Email: office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

In the Event of the Fire Alarm sounding: Please take a few moments to make yourself aware of the fire exits in the Church. Should the fire alarm sound during the service please evacuate the building using the nearest safe fire exit to you. If you are able, please assist those around you to evacuate. Elders will be on hand to direct you once outside the building.

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

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

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

In Church every Sunday there is opportunity to make your donation through the open plate which is passed around at the time of the offering, and for those who are ‘cashless’ there is a card machine located in the vestibule.

QR code in order of service: To use the QR code, please open the camera app on your smart phone, point it at the QR code, and follow instructions on your screen.

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

If you would like to make a one-off donation, please use the new ‘Donate’ button on the Church website or use the QR code.

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

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

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

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

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

Becoming part of the Church family: we've had a number of people asking to become members of our Church family at Morningside in recent weeks which is wonderful. There are a number of ways to do this:

- i. *By profession of faith - coming along to one of the Enquiry classes run by the Minister at different times in the year, then taking vows during a Sunday morning service.*
- ii. *By transferring your membership ('lines') from a congregation you were a member of to our congregation. You will need to ask the Roll Keeper of your former Church to send you the certificate. Then hand in the paperwork to our Roll Keeper, Minister, or to the Church Office.*
- iii. *Admission by Resolution of the Kirk Session. If you're not sure where your membership lies, or you come from another Christian tradition, the Kirk Session can formally admit you into membership.*