

Magazine

No. 169 December 2021

Dear Friends

How will you spend Christmas this year? I know people who have been planning events since September, with all their cards bought and written, presents wrapped, and delivery slots with local shops and supermarkets already booked.

Annoying, aren't they?!

And of course, there are the Christmas television adverts and channels that have been running since high summer.

What preparations will you be embarking upon, particularly since the restrictions around gathering and sharing and being together are more relaxed than they were last year? Will it be the tried and tested routines? Will you be doing something different? What will stay the same? What will change?

I was attracted by a design that said, "The first Christmas was pretty simple. It's okay if yours is too."

Whilst our traditions and ways of doing things have their importance, at the heart of the Christmas message is the unnerving but simple one, God, in Jesus, came to earth to show us what love looks like and that this love is for every single one of us.

After the nearly two years that we have had, with all the challenges and heartbreaks, with all

the signs of hope and steady resilience, yet again the world, and everyone in it, needs to hear the simple direct message of God's love for us, around us, with us.

Whatever your plans are for the Christmas and New Year celebrations, whether you are with family, friends or on your own, my prayer for you is God's richest, warmest deepest blessing. Simple or fancy, may the good news of God with us fill your homes and your lives with light and peace and hope.

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning



WORSHIP MATTERS

Sunday Services: For the time being we continue to wear masks and observe a 1m social distancing at the 9.30am and 10.30am service. We keep the matter under review in line with Church of Scotland and Scottish Government guidelines and we are aware that at the time of writing these are likely to change.

The Minister and Kirk Session decided that the December Communion was not going to be possible because of ongoing restrictions. A recorded communion service, similar to others during lockdown, will be made available online at the Church website during the first week of December.



Christmas and New Year services and events

12 December	10.30am All-Age Service, and Baptism. After this service mulled wine and Christmas refreshments will be served.
15 December	7.30pm Telephone Choir Carol Concert
19 December	9.30am Early Service 10.30am Lessons and Carols Service 3pm Blue Christmas Service (for those who find Christmas a difficult time)
24 December	6.30pm All Age Christmas Eve Service 11pm Carols by Candlelight 11.30pm Watchnight Christmas Eve Service
25 December	10am Christmas Day Service
26 December	10.30am Morning Worship (no 9.30am service, and no after-service coffee)
2 January	10.30am Morning Worship (no 9.30am service, and no after-service coffee)
9 January	9.30am Early Service, 10.30am Morning Worship, (after-service coffee resumes)



THE REV'D JOHN CAMERON – A TRIBUTE

John William Morrison Cameron – for those who were privileged to know him and work with him and love him, you nearly always heard him before you saw him! A loving husband, father and grandfather, hugely talented and gifted in so many ways, he was also the epitome of that good, old-fashioned liberal parish church minister. He had a word for everyone, a story for every occasion, some of them were even true, and an imagination that knew no boundaries. He had a heart as big as the world and was a man of infinite compassion, generous intellect, and gracious interest.

As a family man there was none better. Good with his hands, he could make puppet theatres, paint, play the piano, tell incredible bed-time stories, write poetry and appreciate and share music.

An Edinburgh man, and a Morningside man in particular, he was a proud Herioter, a graduate of Edinburgh University, and studied in Paris, Strasbourg and Basel. His ministries took him to Cockburnspath, Glasgow Pollokshields, Glencairn, and latterly Liberton Kirk.

He served his church locally, regionally and nationally. He was Moderator of Presbytery in 1991. His skill at and passion for communication made him a regular broadcaster on radio and television, a writer, and made him a natural choice to head up organisations and groups whose purpose was to share information and stories, and put words into action.

His interests were many and varied. A man of culture, John read and loved theatre and fine art. He had a passion for music and was involved with the G&S Society and the Telephone Choir. He was an Advocate for Animals. He was a deeply committed Rotarian. He loved railways and walking and swimming. He loved to travel not only for holidays, but also for church exchanges which he enjoyed around the world.

One of life's colourful characters, he was not only well known for his loud voice, but also for his loud ties, and I believe there was a particular lime green one that was especially noteworthy. Never one to go the same route twice in life, John always liked to surprise. On one occasion, having grown a beard for some purpose, he appeared fully bearded at an early service, went back to the manse, shaved it off, and returned for the second service clean-shaven, much to the surprise of some of his Liberton parishioners!

John had only one gear and that was moving forward. Even in retirement he rarely stopped. He was a regular locum and interim moderator. He was frequently in demand for pulpit supply and our congregation has reason to be grateful to him for his generosity with his time in our church and as a service leader in local nursing homes, where he was often older than many of the residents. His last preaching engagement was in Holy Week of 2019. The theme was the Art of Holy Week and the preachers had been asked to pick a painting or piece of art that mattered to them. There were crucifixions and Last Suppers and so on. John treated us to a *tour de force* recounting of Jesus overturning the tables in the Temple. One worshipper wondered if he was going to overturn our solid communion table, such was his dramatic powers!

John Cameron, a family man, a man of learning and culture, a man of faith. Well and truly with his beloved Corine in the VIP bit of heaven.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."



FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers for the coming month are as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
December	5	Evelyn & George McHollan	Marjory Watson
	12	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee
	19	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee
	26	CHRISTMAS	Flower Committee



The new flower list for 2022 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 have 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; e-mail: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com if you require details to make a bank transfer.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

FESTIVE TREATS

Come along to the St Matthew's Hall after the 10.30am service on Sunday 12 December and enjoy some mulled wine and sweet bites, catch up with friends, and meet new ones.

At the moment if you would like to come along please telephone the Church Office on 0131 447 6745 the week before and book your place as we are limited in numbers in the Hall.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Fiona Gossip



LETTER WRITING

Thanks to all who agreed to take part in the letter writing project with the primary school children at George Watson's College. We managed to get 30 sign ups which was great. You should have received your letter by now and the hope is that you will reply to them before school breaks up for the Christmas holidays.

NOVEMBER KIRK SESSION

From its Zoom meeting in November:

- **Presbytery Reform:** The Moderator reported that he understood that a draft plan had been submitted as required by an Act approved by the 2021 General Assembly which requires approval by the Principal Clerk, the Solicitor of the Church, the Faith Nurture Forum and the General Trustees. Presbytery was hopeful to have a plan for discussion by the end of November to be discussed at a special Presbytery meeting in January. The Clerk, in his capacity as a General Trustee, but with no knowledge of the position of the draft plan for Edinburgh, (as all General Trustees have been appointed to review a number of other Presbyteries' plans but not their own Presbytery), suggested that this time scale may be optimistic but it may be that Edinburgh has been fast tracked to test the system. The Moderator advised that he understood that the Edinburgh plan was 68 pages long, and that every congregation would be affected in some way to accommodate the required 40% reduction in ministries.
- **Staff –** The Session Clerk as Convenor of the Staff committee reported that the Covid 19 pandemic had made it another challenging year for our staff but a challenge to which they had all risen positively.
- **Presbytery Elders' Report** – the Session Clerk reported that a Meeting by Zoom on 2 November included -

Revd John Cameron - The Moderator gave formal intimation of his death recording his long ministry and describing him as a "great and gracious" servant of the Church.

Revd Dr Martin Ritchie was released from the charge of Greenbank Parish Church on 31 October 2021.

Two overtures had been sent by the General Assembly for approval by Presbyteries -

1. **General Assembly Reform** - It is proposed that the numbers attending should be reduced from 700 to 550. It was recognized that from 2000 to 2017 there had been a 55% reduction in church membership, yet the size of the Assembly remained the same. It was proposed that there should be a reduction in the number of commissions from 1 in every 4 charges to 1 in every 5. Similarly, the commissions given to every former Moderator is in future to be offered automatically only to the 5 most recent former Moderators. A secret vote was taken, and the proposal was approved, 96% in favour and 4% against.
2. **Solemnisation of Same Sex Marriages** – it is proposed that a minister may **apply** to come a celebrant of same sex marriage, but no person shall be **required** to participate in the solemnisation or be involved in the arrangements. There was a concern that once same sex marriages were permitted by legislation, those who did not wish to perform them might be guilty of discrimination under the Equality Act. However, the legislation has been framed so as to provide an unqualified protection against such a charge and the opinion of the Legal Questions Committee has confirmed that view. A secret vote was taken and the proposal was approved 69% in favour and 31% against.

Resourcing Mission Committee proposes to place an advert on Radio Forth 1 and Forth 2 for the two weeks before Christmas wishing listeners across Edinburgh, the Lothians and Fife a Merry Christmas and encouraging them to join their local church for carol concerts, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. For this to work, congregations are encouraged to display prominently, including online, when services are scheduled. The adverts are anticipated to reach approximately 331,524 people.

Presbytery Planning Strategy Team (PPST) – reported that a draft plan had been sent to the Faith Nurture Forum for review by them and thereafter it will be passed to the General Trustees, the Principal Clerk and the Solicitor of the Church. Four representatives of the PPST had met the Presbytery Mission Implementation Group (PMIG) but it was clear that further discussion was needed before the plan could be signed off. It was suggested that a broader review was necessary as the proposed reduction in charges was not 20% as anticipated, but 40%. Cluster groups will be combined into larger Mission Districts to reconsider their position. The General Trustees, whose role relates to the assessing the suitability of buildings identified in the plan, need to gather better and more objective information on the properties in each Presbytery. Previous requests for information on the condition of properties were thought to be too subjective for a fair judgement to be based on them. It is proposed that an Asset Management Building Audit (AMBA) will be carried out and a team of independent auditors, identified from members of Presbytery, will be trained to carry out the work. It was not clear if this work had to be completed before the outline of the proposed plan could be revealed to Presbytery. Nevertheless, a provisional date to discuss the plan was set for Saturday 15 January 2022.

Finance Committee – reported that they had agreed to use £450k from the development fund, which was created from the 5% returned to Presbytery from the Ministries & Mission (M&M) contributions, to allow a 10% reduction in M&M contributions from congregations in 2022. For MPC the net 2022 contribution for M&M would be £102,843, down from £113,940 in 2021. Presbytery dues will in future be shared with West Lothian. As a consequence, this will reduce the amount needed from each congregation - for MPC reduced to £2,552 compared to £3,931 in 2021.

- A vote was taken among those present and it was agreed that the December Kirk Session meeting be held in person, and in the Church.



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of

Mrs Patricia Hardie, who died on 1 July 2021

Bill Arthur, who died on 26 October 2021

Miss Eleanor Smith, who died on 28 October 2021



MUSIC AND MEMORIES IN MORNINGSIDE

The next workshops for those with dementia and their partners/carers are in the Cluny Hall 2pm – 4pm on the following dates:

Monday 6 December

Friday 17 December

If you would like any more information about this group, please contact Jacqui Lindsay on: 07834 364 628 or pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Or simply come along; you will be made most welcome.

WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS ARE BACK!

It has been lovely to welcome back old friends and new to our Wednesday coffee mornings. Every Wednesday, 10 – 11.30am in the Braid Hall, please do join us, you will be made most welcome.

If you are happy to put your name down on the rota to help once every few weeks then please get in touch with Doreen Reekie on: 0131 664 8431 or by e mail to: d.a.reekie@btinternet.com

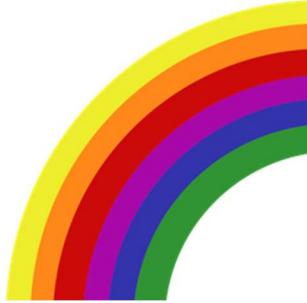
Jacqui Lindsay, Pastoral Assistant



CRÈCHE ROTA

Our group of helpers for the Crèche has been reduced to just three people which means that we share the duties every second week. Two helpers with PVG clearance are needed each week. Our Crèche is quiet just now but we do need more volunteers in our group to share the care. Crèche toys are always set up, ready for the 10.30am service. If you would like to join our little group, please come and speak to me.

Evelyn Henderson



Morningside Hope

This is the umbrella name that we'll be using for the projects being made possible by the generous grant received from TOR Christian Foundation and the matched funding from the church itself.

If you're like me, it's helpful to have dates in the diary well in advance so below are some of the activities that will be happening in the coming year with dates and times.

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

Held in the Cluny Hall 2- 4pm

January	Monday 10 & Friday 28	July:	Monday 4 & Friday 22
February:	Monday 7 & Friday 25	August:	Monday 1, Friday 19 & Monday 29.
March:	Monday 7 & Friday 25	September:	Monday 5 & Friday 23
April:	Monday 4 & Friday 22	October:	Monday 3 & Friday 21
May:	Monday 2, Friday 20 & Monday 30	November:	Monday 7 & Friday 25
June:	Monday 6 & Friday 24	December:	Monday 5 & Friday 16

EXERCISE CLASSES for those with dementia and their carers/partners.

The class itself will last 40-45 minutes, followed by tea, coffee and the chance to chat.

Held on Mondays in the Cluny Hall 2-4pm

January	17 & 31	July:	11 & 25
February:	14 & 28	August:	8 & 22
March:	14 & 28	September:	12 & 26
April:	11 & 25	October:	10 & 24
May:	9 & 23	November:	14 & 28
June:	13 & 27	December:	12

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 a catch up.

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

January 26	May 18	September 21
February 23	June 22	October 19
March 23	July 20	November 23
April 20	August 17	December 14

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSES

An Introduction: running over two evenings, Tuesdays 15 and 22 March

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

There is a maximum of 16 places on the course **and it is open to anyone** interested in finding out a bit more about pastoral care, without the necessity of making any commitment, beyond the course itself.

The course will look at topics such as:

- Communication & listening skills
- Self-awareness & self-care
- Boundaries and why they matter
- Dementia /or bereavement (dependant on those attending)

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

Pastoral Skills Course, Part 2: running over two evenings, Tuesdays 27 September. & 4 October.

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

Pastoral Training for Young People parts 1 & 2: aimed at those 15+, the course will be similar to the above.

Tuesdays: 8 & 15 February and 8 & 15 March 1.15 – 3.45pm

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

We plan to put on a programme of day time, dementia friendly concerts, 4 or 5 each year.

Open to everyone, this will be a varied programme kicking off with a piano recital given by Peter Foggitt, on Saturday 26 March.



We shall put out more details in the New Year but in the interim you can check out Peter at: www.peterfoggitt.com

In addition, we plan to offer a couple of animal workshops throughout the year, dates and times still to be decided and in 2023 and 2024 we will be offering Heart for Art, a wonderful weekly art project for those with dementia.

Interested in attending? Please come along to any of the above, you will be made most welcome.

Interested in volunteering? If you would like to help with any of these activities please get in touch, we're going to need a lot of willing hands to enable this exciting project to happen.

Or simply **interested in finding out a little bit more**, just contact our Pastoral Assistant Jacqui Lindsay on: 07834 364 628 or e mail:

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk



THE WEDNESDAY (EVENING) CLUB (AID FOR THE DISABLED) AND THE EDINBURGH TELEPHONE CHOIR

For many years the Edinburgh Telephone Choir was on the list of entertainers for the Wednesday (Evening) Club and, at the suggestion of the late Rev. George Munro, this became the now well established Carol Concert. The disabled men thoroughly enjoy the singing in the company of relatives, friends and members of the congregation. Their evening continues with refreshments in the company of members of the choir, along with the traditional visit from Santa.

This year's concert/congregational sing-a-long, led by the choir's Musical Director, Jennifer Gosling, is on Wednesday 15 December at 7.30pm in the church. At the grand piano will be the choir's accompanist, Jun Chan. Our previous accompanist, Marion McPherson, will again lead the congregational singing from the organ.

We hope you will come along and join us to help make this a memorable evening for the disabled men and yourselves. A retiring collection is taken to assist with the costs incurred by the various outings the men enjoy.

If you would like to attend, please contact the church office to book a seat and provide contact details as required for Track and Trace: telephone 0131 447 6745 or email office@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

Eleanor and Bill Watt

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION CHRISTMAS CARD VOLUNTEER POST

Save money and support a good cause.

We will deliver your cards, on foot or by bike, to **EH9, EH10 and EH13** post codes, for 40p a card. **MAIN DOOR ADDRESSES ONLY PLEASE. SORRY, NO FLATS.**

This will save you 45p on a first class stamp or 26p on a second class stamp.

All the money raised will go to Scottish Love in Action. Please look at their website to find out more about the work of this very special charity: www.sla-india.org

Please deliver your Christmas cards to one of the addresses below by 5pm on Friday 10 December, together with the correct postage (40p per card). You can also give them to Lesley Murphy by 10 December.

Margaret Clark, 37/1 Mid Steil, Edinburgh, EH10 5XB (Tel 07763 779 344)

Venetia Thomson, 13 Comiston Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 5QR (Tel 07505 284 657)



FRESH START

Household items suitable for Fresh Start starter packs can be left in the labelled box underneath the pigeonholes. Please note items, especially pots and pans, should be in a clean reusable condition as the charity is charged for the disposal of unusable items.

Anne McNeil (0131 668 1812)

Fresh Start

helping people make a home for themselves

For those who have been homeless, they have no belongings. When they move into a flat, they cannot make a cup of tea, light a lamp, shut their curtains or snuggle up under their duvet. **YOU** can help.

Below is a list of household items that can help make a house a home.



Dishes and Cutlery • Dinner Plates • Side Plates • Bowls • Cutlery
• Glass Tumblers • Mugs • Tea-Towels



Cleaning Items • Washing Up Liquid • Toilet Cleaner • Toothbrushes
• Toothpaste • Hand Soap • Toilet Rolls • Bin Bags & Liners
• Dustpan & Brushes • All Purpose Cleaners • Laundry Tablets • J-Cloths



Pots and Pans • Soup Pots • Frying Pans • Milk Pans • Cooking Utensils
• Can Openers • Potato Peelers • Wooden Spoons



Bed Linen and Towels • Single, Double & King • Sheets •
• Duvet Covers • Pillow Cases • Blankets • Towels • Curtains • Face Cloths



Small Household Electric Items • Kettles • Toasters • Lamps • Irons
• Vacuum Cleaners • Radios • DVD Player • Microwaves • Music Systems



Long Lasting Food Products • Tins & Jars of: Beans / Spaghetti / Soup /
Vegetables / Meat / Fish • Cooking Sauces • Packets of Pasta • Rice • Cereal
• Porridge • Biscuits • Sugar • Tea Bags • Instant Coffee • UHT Milk

We are an accredited Revolve organisation, meaning that the goods that we re-use must meet the required standard set out by Zero Waste Scotland. In order to reduce waste, please can all donated items be in a clean, reusable condition as we do not have the facilities available to wash items. We are charged for the disposal of all items that we are unable to use, which impacts on the services we are able to provide. Please can you also avoid hard plastics, such as buckets, as they cannot be used in our packs and end up in landfill.



FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL **0131 476 7741**
OR EMAIL: **ADMIN@FRESHSTARTWEB.ORG.UK**

FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

Material for the February issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 14 January 2022** and it will be available by Sunday 30 January. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk. Please note that there is no magazine in January.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

(Contributed by the late Revd John Cameron for the December 2017 magazine)

As a child, I wrote letters to Santa,
Requesting great mountains of stuff.
Tho' I'd plenty of toys in my toy-box
And already had more than enough.

But one year it seemed better to ask him,
Not for annuals, or games that were new
But simply to come to the rescue,
With a tube of the very best glue.

For I knew I was clumsy and awkward.
And sometimes destructive and cross;
Any my toys would get battered or broken;
Parts of jigsaw and games would get lost.

I hoped Santa's helpers could fix them,
Neat-fingered and patient and clean.
I was far too slap-dash to repair things,
Or restore them to what they had been.

Who can set right disorder untold;
I'm once more in need of a mender,
Who can heal all relationships splintered
And bring warmth to all hearts that grow cold.

The Christ Child grew up in a workshop
And mastered the carpenter's trade;
He can mend, he can heal, he can pardon.
And repair all the mischief we've made.

His hands can be probing or gentle,
His methods be patient or crude;
To bridge all that divides us from heaven
He takes nails and two pieces of wood.

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Join us for worship in Church in person at 9.30am or 10.30am each Sunday or click on the link on our website to join us online either live or at a later date.

www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL READERS

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