

Magazine

No. 173 May 2022

Dear Friends

I had a short break, though I did have a preaching engagement, in the middle of April. One of the events I have enjoyed attending in London for a number of years is the Olivier Awards held in the Royal Albert Hall. It's been a great privilege.

Watching the awards and performances from plays and musicals from London's West End, and around the country, I'm always struck by the talent, energy and commitment of so many people. The awards this year were particularly special as it was the first in-person ceremony since 2019. Performer after performer emotionally expressed gratitude for the support

they'd received during lockdown, and for the joy that they were now 'back home' on the stage, doing what they did best, and with their 'theatre family.' The sense of what they'd lost, and who they'd lost, over the last two years, alongside a very palpable sense of their community and people was immense. So also was the sheer joy of their performances. Powerful and poignant at one and the same time.

We continue to move back into the new landscape of the returned church, and I wonder if we might remember, like those

in the entertainment business, that what we do, and what we are as a Christian family and church is also about joy, and family, and being together, and offering support, and joy.

Did I mention joy?

In May we are still, in terms of worship, in the season of Easter. Has the joy of the good news of the resurrection faded from you, faded from the Church? Have we eased so much into normality and routine that the brilliant wonder of God's love for us in Jesus has become so much ecclesiastical wallpaper?

When you read this, take a moment to pause, and give thanks, and be joyful. Joyful, in the midst of this sometimes wicked, cruel and bleak world, that the sun still continues to shine; that kindness can often be found; that opportunities to help others still occur; that hope has not quite been vanquished; that love will, always, triumph over evil, as light will, always, triumph over darkness.

And did I mention joy?

Very Revd Dr Derek Browning

APRIL KIRK SESSION

From its meeting in April

- **Emerging from Lockdown** – the Moderator reported that although many legal restrictions on wearing masks and social distancing had been lifted it was still recommended that caution was exercised and that we move back to “normal” in stages. The recording of attendances for Test and Protect had been stopped and a further step was that members of Session were meeting in person, albeit with only 4 at each table. It is no longer a legal requirement to wear masks at worship. However, those who wished to continue to do so are welcome to do so. The seating in the South half of the church would return to the pre-pandemic layout. The North half will still have physically distanced seating. The situation will be kept under review. It was agreed that there would be no immediate return to the use of individual Bibles or Hymn books; individual Orders of Service will be laid on each seat; the offering would continue to be taken at the door; and seating at tables at coffee would remain at 4 per table. The monthly Jam and Baking stall is planned to resume on 24 April (but with the requirement that in compliance with new legislation all ingredients must be displayed).
- **Presbytery Reform** - The Moderator reported that he, the Session Clerk and Robert Armour would be meeting representatives of the Presbytery on 3 May to discuss our response to the Consultative Document.
- **Property** – Moira Clark had circulated an update schedule of works. Significant work to the south aisle roof are being progressed, along with work to refurbish the weather-damaged hand rail on the Braid Road disabled access ramp.
- **Pastoral Report** – Doreen Reekie Convenor reported on the Visiting Group’s work, and also that with the lifting of visiting restrictions, she will be undergoing visits to nine new members who have joined in recent months.
- **The Roll Review Group** (the Moderator, Fiona Stewart, Moira Clark, David Mitchell, Issie Paterson and Norma Wilson) was set-up pre Covid but convened for the first time in September 2021. The focus of the Group is to look at the frequency of Elders’ visits, the size of Districts and to see if there are more effective means of communicating with Church members rather than the existing regular “in person” visits. The key points arising from their discussion were -
 - Several Church members who received an Elder’s visit really didn’t want one.
 - Many Elders did not feel visiting their District was a good use of their time.
 - There is a shortage of District Elders with many newer Elders not wishing to take on a District due to work/personal commitments.
 - Presbytery Reform could have a knock-on effect for pastoral care on the minister, pastoral assistant and others.
 - During Covid, Elders were in regular contact via e mail and/or phone with their District and considered this had been hugely worthwhile and beneficial. A number of Elders would wish to continue visiting those within their District whatever the outcome of

the Roll Review - strong bonds had been built up between Elder and those they visited over many years, and Elders would not be discouraged from continuing to visit in the future.

- Sending out a Christmas card to every Church member in 2020 had been a success
- There was consensus that the existing arrangements were “not fit for purpose” and we had to move forward with agreeing to a different means of communicating with our Congregation. Quarterly visits, in particular, were not sustainable and no longer necessary to encourage attendance at Communion.

It was decided by the Group that they needed to hear and take account of the views of Session. In particular:

- Are existing District Elders happy to continue visiting at least once p.a.
- Would a “hybrid” system be more appropriate – one annual visit and regular e-mail/phone contact?
- If there is little, or no, support for any form of District visiting would Elders be willing to e-mail or phone those who would appreciate such contact? Elders wishing to continue visiting could be included in an expanded pastoral care visiting group.
- Discussion led to no clear conclusion other than a recognition that society had changed and people’s needs change over the years. The fundamental question is how do we keep in touch with the membership in a way that is manageable and sustainable and welcomed by the members. The views of the congregation would be sought after the Session had considered the matter further. In a poll of those present on which of the three options they considered best, a large majority supported the hybrid system as the way forward. Further thought will be given to this topic and it will be brought back to Session before any final decision is taken.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland meets from 21 to 26 May. It will be a ‘hybrid’ meeting, with some commissioners present in person in the Assembly Hall, and others joining in via Zoom online.

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church of Scotland, and is made up of ministers, elders and deacons from congregations all over Scotland, and the wider world. There are a number of ecumenical and overseas visitors each year. The General Assembly sets and approves the policy for our national church, which is then implemented by Presbyteries (the regional body of the church, we’re in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian) and Kirk Sessions, the local governing body of the church.

This year’s Lord High Commissioner, representing the Queen, will be the Rt Hon Lord Hodge, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.



Morningside Hope

Both the **Young Person's Pastoral Training** and our **Adult Pastoral Training courses** went really well. The fourth and final week of the young persons' training was hit by COVID and there were only four left standing. Despite that, all participants fed back that the course had been really useful as well as enjoyable.

The adult course had 13 participants from 7 different churches including our own.

Comments ranged from; "*a fantastic course*", "*I thought it was very well done and I had a lot of fun and feel like I've made some new friends which I wasn't expecting*" to "*Hope course 2 is as good!*"

We plan to run Part 2 of the adult course in the Autumn, more about that in future issues.



Balance Workshop

We had a very interesting one-off **workshop with Jill Eccleston**, an expert in postural stability in April this year. She did mainly chair based exercises with us, focusing on our stability and how to avoid falls. She will be returning on 23rd May and this workshop is **open to everyone** who would appreciate some pointers on how to work on balance etc.

Other events over the next couple of months will be:



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

Held in the Cluny Hall 2- 4pm

May: Monday 2, Friday 20 and Monday 30

June: Monday 6 and Friday 24

GENTLE EXERCISE TO MUSIC 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 in the Cluny Hall,
Mondays, 2-4pm
May 9 and 23
June 13 and 27



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
18 May and 22 June



DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERT: Our second concert, featuring a wonderful Brass Quintet, will take place on Saturday 28 May at 2pm and be followed by teas and coffees, – **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

MUSIC FOR BRASS QUINTET

A bit like a (very) miniature brass band, our brass quintet consists of two trumpets, two trombones and a horn. Our instruments are shiny, we smile a lot and the music we play can brighten the darkest of days. We will present a short programme of varied music - some of it familiar, some less so - but all of it guaranteed to gladden the heart. Morningside Parish Church, with its warm and comfortable surroundings, has an ideal acoustic for performing brass music, and the players, all of whom are well known Edinburgh musicians, are greatly looking forward to their visit on 28 May. We are:- Ruari Wilson: Trumpet, Alex Priestley: Trumpet, Adrian Sulston: Trombone, Michael Frater: Trombone, David Rimer: Horn.

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

MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERT – what you missed!



The prodigiously talented pianist, conductor and composer, Peter Foggitt, gave not just one but two concerts in Morningside Parish Church during the last weekend in March, 2022. The first, on the Saturday, marked the start of a new series of Dementia Friendly concerts (more later) and the second on the Sunday evening was a full blown piano recital with refreshments during the interval. You may remember that this recital was due to happen in Church in 2020 but was postponed due to Lockdown.

Peter gave us a glorious selection of JS Bach preludes and fugues as well as his Overture in the French Style, showing wit and grace and lightness of touch, and an exciting rendering of the Beethoven piano sonata in C minor, Op 10 no 1. His Chopin Fantasie- Impromptu Op 66 was breathtakingly beautiful and he dazzled us with Liszt's Two Concert Études, an astonishing feat of technical brilliance. Peter's own composition Little Sparta (2021) was based on the same series of 15 notes played over several movements in the form of a suite inspired by the Dunsyre Garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay, and ending with a poignantly reflective Eclogue. The evening concluded with Peter's own Improvisation on random notes provided by the audience, interwoven into a stunning tapestry in which the participants searched for their own notes! A wonderful concert experience in all, our thanks to Peter for making it possible and for supplying such witty and enlightening commentary on what he was playing and on the composers themselves.

The Saturday afternoon concert was a shortened version of the above specifically chosen for our first Dementia Friendly concert. Again we appreciated Peter chatting to the audience and the refreshments supplied at the end by the catering team. Thanks to the organisers, Peter Foggitt, the TOR Foundation, the Minister and to Morningside Parish Church itself for enabling this event to happen.

We are aiming to provide four short dementia friendly concerts this year on Saturday afternoons with invited guests. Should you have missed this one, don't worry, the next will feature a brass quintet on Saturday 28 May at 2 pm, all welcome.

Jennifer Rimer

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

EDINBURGH SOUTH EAST FOODBANK

The Edinburgh South East Foodbank, based at Southhouse Broadway, has existed for 10 years and is run by a partnership involving Blythswood Care and The Trussell Trust. MPC has supported its work over the years through individual donations of food and money, with a hugely successful congregational response to recent appeals at Harvest time.

The Foodbank aims to provide emergency food parcels (comprising basic necessities such as cereal, tinned soup, vegetables, fruit etc, rice, pasta and tins of meat and fish), toiletries and baby products to local people in need, as well as offering a listening ear and a friendly welcome. It serves the EH16 and EH17 postal areas so most of the referrals come from the Liberton/Gilmerton council wards. The clients are referred by GPs, schools, support agencies and charities. The causes for referrals are varied but include low income, debt, minimal or no benefit support, domestic abuse and ill/mental health.

In the year to March 2022 SE Foodbank supported 2697 people, of whom over 40% were children. Some were people in emergency need whom we only saw once, whilst others we sadly saw on a regular basis. Numbers increased dramatically during the Covid pandemic, but the reality is that those figures haven't come down and are actually increasing.

With the rise in the cost of foodstuffs and energy placing an increased burden on those already struggling to cope we expect even more people being referred, and even more food parcels being issued, over the coming months. If you would like to make a financial donation, which would enable us to buy items which we are currently short of, please send a cheque (made payable to Blythswood Care – South East Edinburgh Foodbank) to Blythswood Care, Highland Deephaven, Evanton, Ross-shire IV16 9XJ. If you would like an acknowledgement of your donation, please include your e mail address. Thank you.

Fiona Stewart

FLOWER COMMITTEE

The flowers for the coming month are as follows:-

		Donated by	Arranged by
May	1	Kerry Elgey	Irene Wilson & Eleanor Watt
	8	Trudi Ferrier	Karen Keil
	15	Eleanor Watt	Marjory Watson
	22	Marie Ogilvie	Anne Armour & Issie Paterson
	29	Wallace Bell	Eleanor Watt
June	5	Hazel Knight	Irene Wilson

I would like to thank all those who have offered to donate money for the flowers over the coming year. 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 fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes or advise me if you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener. 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 for the Flower Fund bank details on irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com or tel: 449 2866



Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

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



CHRISTIAN AID QUIZ 2022!

FOOD AND DRINK

1. Dark wood cake (5,6,6)

2. Sweaty spaniel (3,3)

3. Wee tip (8)

4. Thought about Bordeaux (6,4)

5. Redhead breaks (6,5)

6. Wee loaf (10)

7. Gegs (9,4)

8. Make the most of tremor (9)

9. Skate with gambling tokens (4,3,5)

10. Wee house dish (7,3)

11. Sounds like fake ache (9)

12. Cooked State (5,6)

13. Fruit disintegrate (5,7)

14. Ore from the tap (7,5)

Answers next month!

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15. Bird broth (7,4)

16. Clinked glasses to brie (7,6)

17. Junction circles (9,5)

18. Complain about boot (4,10)

19. Walk primly with Jersey Royals (5,3,8)

20. Laid as turf the wrong way round (5,5)

21. Extra bones (5,4)

22. Colour game (6,6)

23. Link those on register (7,4)

24. Source ale (4,4)

25. Girl you might find in the bath (8,6)

26. County dessert (9,7)

27. I yell 'Sabbath' we hear (3,5,6)

28. Kind of rummy pick me up (3,3,5)

29. Pasta made backwards, perhaps (8,6)

30. Chilled Earl Gray (4,3)

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022

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



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members, Isabella Jennifer Veitch and Olivia Eliana Veitch who were baptised on 27 March 2022.

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of:

Mrs Jean Macaulay, who died on 27 March 2022

Mary Magdalen with Mary, the wife of Cleopas, at the tomb of Jesus, from La Pietà by Niccolò dell'Arca in Santa Maria della Vita, Bologna



We have witnesses to the death and we have witnesses to the risen Jesus, but we have no account of how the transformation took place. The thing we are most curious about, the central fact of history if the gospel is true, is hidden from us. The gospels tell us that the initial discovery was a negative one: the tomb was empty. Jesus was gone. Even the small consolation of anointing His remains was denied to His friends. Mary Magdalen, coming to the tomb on that thwarted errand of loving service, is the first witness to this absence, and she reports it to the disciples. Peter and John have a sort of race to reach the tomb and find out what is going on.

They accept the extraordinary situation, and go back to their friends to ponder it. It seems that they have forgotten the woman whose message alerted them to the news, and who not only ran to fetch them but accompanied them all the way back to the garden as well.

Mary's primary emotion is not curiosity or fear; it is the profoundly human response of grief. Her purpose is not to find out what happened, but rather to see the One she mourns. She is drawn to the tomb by longing for her Lord. She needs to be in the place where she last saw Him.

She comes to the tomb carrying a pot of myrrh to anoint a dead man, but she sets down this gift for a corpse, and carries home instead the announcement, "I have seen the Lord!"

Her earlier report was of an absence, but now she can witness to a presence. She has been transformed.

What happened in between?

A transformation has taken place, and we can see it only by its effects. A grieving woman becomes the apostle to the apostles. A band of despairing runaways begins to preach the gospel. And the witness of those first disciples has enabled countless millions to see the risen Lord at work in our lives, too.

(from Marjorie Brown, Night of Weeping, morn of song, in The Print of the Nails, a collection of reflections on Holy Week and Easter, Canterbury Press 2022)

LIFE AND WORK

In the May issue:

General Assembly 2022

- The hidden art treasures in the Assembly Hall
- Interview with the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Iain Greenshields
- 'No Time for Turning Back': The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, convener of the Assembly Trustees, urges the Church to continue the journey of reform
- Assembly reports and timetable

Marks of Mission: Continuing the series with the Fourth Mark of Mission: to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

A Privilege and a Joy: In this month's youth column, Jamie Sutherland [*the recent Enquirer at MPC*] reflects on his experiences after being called to the Eldership at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic

United by Hope in Times of Crisis: This year's appeal for Christian Aid Week
Plus: Prayers and Aid for Ukraine

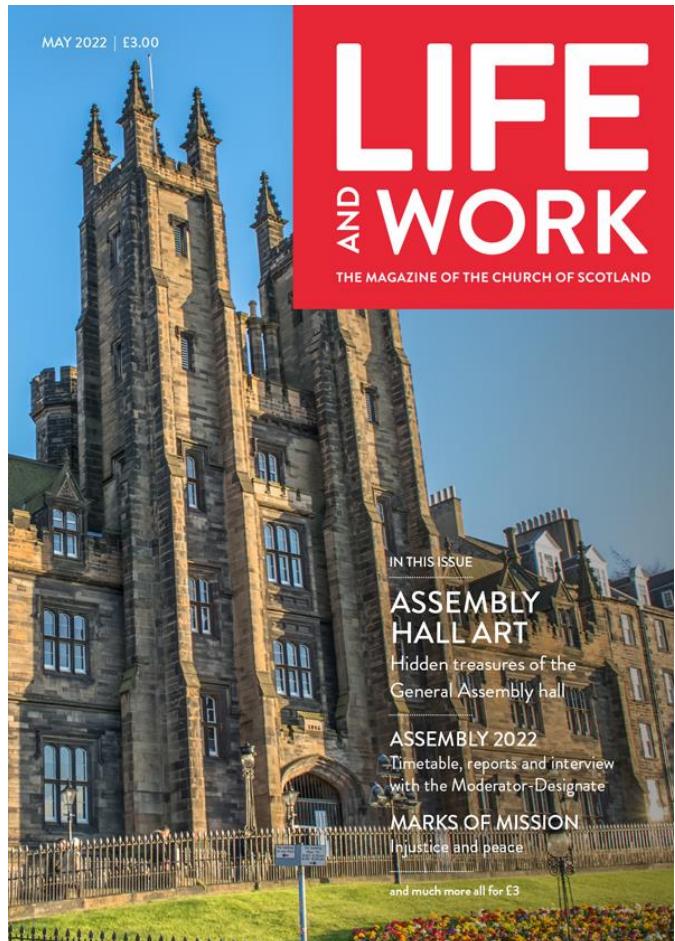
Celebrate Digital Church: The Very Rev Albert Bogle says that as in-person church resumes, it is important that local congregations continue to develop their digital footprint

East Neuk Churches: John R Hume reflects on the history of some of the churches around the East Neuk of Fife

God's Test: In the latest of the series on the Lord's Prayer, David Searle considers temptation

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Shut out Scammers

Close the Door

on uninvited callers. Don't feel obliged to answer the door to a cold caller - it is your home and you should not let anyone in unless you feel comfortable.

Take Time

to think before making a decision. Rogue traders may try to pressure you by saying that they have special deals which are only available today. Don't let an uninvited trader start work straight away.

Research

Get at least 3 quotes from trusted companies before having any work done in or around your property. Rogue traders go to great lengths to appear legitimate - check at least 3 review sites to make sure you are getting genuine feedback. Find traders who have been vetted by Trading Standards through a local approved trader scheme.

Verify

that the person is genuine and take a note of the company's details. ID cards can be faked - close the door and, rather than phoning the number on the trader's ID card, look up the company's number on their official website or in an official phone directory to check their identity. Legitimate traders will be happy to wait while you perform these checks.

Report

any suspicious behaviour to Police Scotland on 101, or 999 in an emergency. Report scams to Advice Direct Scotland on 0808 164 6000 or at www.consumeradvice.scot. Sign up to the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Alert system to receive alerts about local safety issues from partners such as Police Scotland.

JUNE MAGAZINE

Material for the June issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 20 May 2022** and it will be available by Sunday 5 June. Please email your contributions to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk. Please note that there are no magazines in July or August.

Spring

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs to have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden – Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

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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.

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