



Magazine

No. 208 April 2026

Dear Friends

When Pope John Paul II spoke on a visit to the United States some years ago he said, *"We are the Easter people and our song is Alleluia."* Never forget that you are Easter people called to witness to the good news of Jesus, not just through what you say, but by what you do and how you behave. In our frightening and frightened world, still at the mercy of forces that feel very far from our control, and acting in ways even further from how we would want them to act, Christians are called not forlornly but resolutely to point towards hope and peace and kindness and love.

When we try to help others in perplexity or trouble, remember that we are on the side of life, and that because of what is going on in the world, or despite what is going on in the world, we hold on to hope.

We are living at a time when it feels hard to hope. Where is the light? Everywhere we see greed and bigotry being celebrated, and bullying and

mockery masquerading as strength. We see ignorance, dishonesty, cruelty and corruption reaping untold rewards. It is an aching sadness that this feels no different from the days of Jesus at the time of His crucifixion.

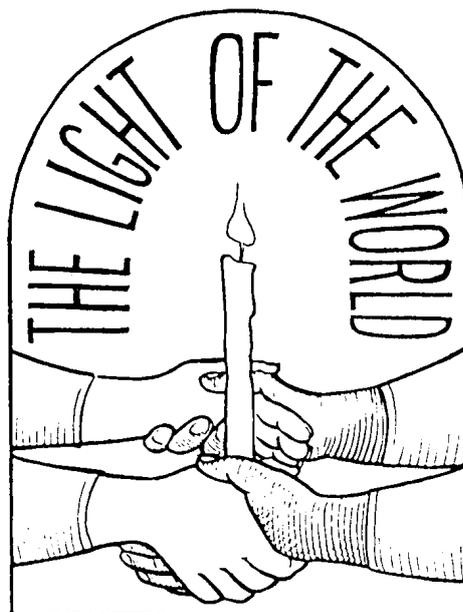
And yet...

"We are the Easter people and our song is Alleluia."

He stepped up, to a cross and death. And He stepped out, from a tomb and into light on Easter.

Maybe that is our Easter challenge. If we don't step up, no-one else will. Are we going to add to the darkness, or are we going to shine a light?

May you have richly blessed and hopeful Easter, and beyond, because you believe, and you will hold on to hope.



*Very Revd Dr Derek
Browning*

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in March and discussed the following:

Proposed Morningside Youth Choir: Discussions have taken place with a choral scholar who has raised the possibility of creating a youth choir. It is hoped to start in September. There will be publicity about the proposal later.

Morningside Umbrella Festival - a report update recognised that £14,000 had already been raised, getting close to the highest sums we've raised in previous Morningside fund-raising. Publicity continues to ramp up. We are putting short clips of supporters with umbrellas endorsing our campaign out weekly on Facebook and have a range of groups lined up - many of them Church users - that will appear over the coming month. Please actively like and share them. A letter to the congregation asking for financial support and sponsorship will be going out soon and we have a variety of ideas to raise interest and funds at Easter. Once we hit May, our publicity will become more intensive. We have been looking at practical aspects like insurance, PVG, and fit out arrangements. We have to think of other Church users, caretaking and, of course, building work. We would love to take the wiring to string the umbrellas higher but the working at height and floor loading considerations make this difficult. We are planning a test of fixings in April to see how the installation will look.

Outside the Church there will be some lively boards and installations to attract interest as well as the railing displays. Our four partner schools are all engaged in providing aspects of the art features. Other boards and artworks are being sponsored by individuals, across the community or centre users. It's really heartening.

The community response remains amazing. We have volunteers to help and donations of time, supplies and money from a variety of businesses and people across the town. Prizes donated for raffles are in some cases so good we need to look at an auction. We are seeing generosity and enthusiasm from people with no links with our church. The Morningside Community Council has made a donation and offered help. There is clear anticipation and excitement. Over 75% of the ceilidh or race night attendees were from outside the church family. All this promotes the visibility of our church and reminds us we are seen as a force for good.

Within the congregation, the response for crafting, sewing banners and knitting umbrellas has been super, and Euan advises that we have had a number of generous donations. This is the main fund-raising campaign for a really significant roof repair bill and we have to get behind it.

We need your help. Be part of making it a success.

Reports from Committees -

Stewardship and Finance - The Treasurer, Euan Murray had circulated in advance of the meeting full copies of the draft accounts and accompanying pie charts, both with commentary. In the commentary Euan drew attention to the fact that -

Total income for 2025 was £403,000 (2024: £ 385,546)

Total Expenditure for 2025 was £467,000 (2024: £456,000)

Net deficit for 2025 is a loss of £64,000 but, after gains in investments of £30,000 are taken into account, this reduces to £34,000. However, Euan pointed out that the total income includes £67,000 of legacies which for obvious reasons are non-recurring and £30,000 of investment gains which cannot be relied on.

The Moderator thanked the Accountants, Church Treasurers past and present, and the members of the Stewardship and Finance committee for their work not just in the preparation of the accounts but throughout the year.

No questions were raised and Session instructed the Treasurer and the Clerk to sign the accounts as approved on behalf of the Session.

Safeguarding - Paul Cackette, Convenor, tabled the safeguarding Congregational Register Form which names those involved in paid or voluntary work with children and/or protected adults. Session agreed to approve the roll and to instruct the Clerk to attest it in the usual way. Paul advised Session that Neil Thrower had agreed to take over his role in dealing with safe-guarding after 29 years in the role. His retiral will be effective from 1 April and the Clerk will notify the Safeguarding Service at 121 George Street of the change. Session expressed its thanks to Paul for his long service in the role.



THE FUTURE OF PHILANTHROPY: TRENDS, TOOLS, AND IMPACT IN PARTNERSHIP

Christian Aid is hosting an event on **Wednesday 29th April, from 5:00pm to 9:00pm**, at the **Library of Mistakes in Edinburgh, 33a Melville Street Lane, Edinburgh, EH3 7QB**

This is an inspiring gathering of leaders, practitioners, and partners shaping the future of philanthropy. Philanthropy is undergoing a fundamental shift. Traditional grant-making is being complemented by new approaches such as impact investing, data-driven decision-making, and collaborative funding models. This event explores how philanthropy is evolving and what this means for funders, non-profit organisations, and social innovators.

The session will explore key forces shaping the future of philanthropy, including:

- Philanthropic trends influencing the next decade, such as changing donor expectations, long-term impact strategies, and cross-sector collaboration
- Impact investing, examining how financial returns and social outcomes can work together to scale solutions
- Evolving philanthropic models, including trust-based philanthropy, participatory grant-making, donor-advised funds (DAFs), and other flexible, mission-aligned funding approaches
- Tools and technology, from data analytics and impact measurement frameworks to digital platforms supporting transparency and accountability
- Measuring and managing impact, with a focus on outcomes, learning, and adaptive approaches rather than short-term outputs

Why attend? -

This event offers practical insights and forward-looking perspectives for anyone involved in funding, delivering, or supporting social impact. Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of emerging models and tools, and how to apply them to create more effective, sustainable, and meaningful change.

MORNINGSIDE UMBRELLA FESTIVAL UPDATE –

SATURDAY 30th MAY - SUNDAY 14th JUNE 2026

February might have been cold and wet but our charity ceilidh on 27th February lifted everyone's spirits and over 60 people enjoyed a fun night and together raised £1,225. This was closely followed by the Charity Horse Racing Night which saw normally quiet ladies gambling a pound a time and cheering at the telly urging their chosen horse to go faster. At the end of the night a fabulous £310 was raised.

The same evening saw over 20 people attend the Craft, Coffee and Cake Evening held in the Church. There was a real buzz amongst the group and people enjoyed various crafts and delicious homemade cakes. Together this group raised a terrific £213 which takes the **overall total at the time we go to print to £14,000.**

Up and coming Activities and Events

Edinburgh Telephone Choir: In April, we would urge you to attend the special concert being held by the Edinburgh Telephone Choir on Friday 17th April. Entry is by donation and all monies raised will go towards the Umbrella Festival so please tell family and friends.

The next day, Saturday 18th April, volunteers are required to help at **Tesco Colinton** where we have kindly been given permission to hold a tombola. If you can spare just half an hour between 10am and 3.30pm, your help would be much appreciated.

The Morningside Umbrella Festival Recipe Book We have received a fabulous suggestion to compile a Morningside Umbrella Festival Recipe book, and with your help would like to try and have something produced to sell at our Festival. We hope to have 50 of your favourite recipes with a couple of sentences explaining why you have chosen to share your recipe. You are welcome to submit more than one recipe but depending on submissions it may be necessary to limit to one per person. If, we receive more than one recipe for the same or very similar item you may be asked to submit a different recipe.

Please submit your recipe in a typed Word format with ingredients in metric to kerryelgey@hotmail.co.uk by 23rd April 2026.

Tickets are now on sale for **Keith Jack** who will be performing a very special concert in the Sanctuary on Friday 12th June at 7.30pm. Direct from London's West End, this will be a wonderful evening for anyone who enjoys musical theatre. Please contact Kerry Watt on 07530 971367 or email kerryelgey@hotmail.co.uk for more information and to buy your tickets, priced £30- £40.



The Umbrella Festival is now less than two months away. If you haven't already done so, we would invite you to consider making a donation. We now have a Morningside Umbrella Just Giving Page and you can donate by using the QR code (left).

**VARIOUS
FUNDRAISING
EVENTS**



Ceilidh



Race Night



**Craft, Coffee and
Cake Evening**

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

HELP FUND MORNINGSIDE UMBRELLA FESTIVAL THROUGH EASYFUNDRAISING

We would like you to consider doing your online shopping in a way that costs you nothing but raises money for our church. Easyfundraising has signed up over 8000 retailers to give a small percentage of the price to the charity you nominate when you buy from them. The price you pay is the same but the church gets the cashback.

Lots of organisations use this for fundraising and the Church of Scotland has suggested it to congregations raising funds. Closer to home eight organisations with Morningside in their name are using it so please select Morningside Parish Church and not the others!

Setting it Up

- Search on your web browser for easyfundraising.org.uk
- Click on "Sign up" and follow the instructions. You will be asked to choose the charity you want to support - please use "Morningside Parish Church". Then click on the cause shown (Morningside Parish Church with the Umbrellas logo) and it will take you to "Start raising free donations today". Then create an account and password.
- If you are already signed up, you just go to "Log in "
- You select the retailer you wish to use going through the Easyfundraising site. There are over 8000 retailers including Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, M&S, eBay, Amazon, Boots, Apple and many more.
- Order your shopping in the usual way.
- Remember, this is only for online shopping.

Browser Extension

You can make the process simpler still by adding the browser extension. When you make a purchase using the browser extension, you go direct to the retailer's website, and not through Easyfundraising's site. The browser extension will give you a pop up to tell you before you buy if the company you are shopping with is part of the scheme and you can therefore raise funds for Morningside Parish Church.

To install the browser extension, you

- go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/
- click on "browser extension"
- follow the instructions

Downloading the Easyfundraising App

An easy way to shop. Download the free app on iOS or Android. Choose a retailer, shop as normal, and your cause gets a free donation.

To install the Easyfundraising app go to the App store (Apple) or Google Play (Android) and choose "Easyfundraising". You may find useful the detailed step by step video on the website, showing how to install and extend - you will find it at the Support button. And then you are on your way to a painless way to raise funds for our church.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/morningside-parish-church>

MORNINGSIDE UMBRELLA FESTIVAL
Welcomes the
EDINBURGH TELEPHONE CHOIR

Known not only for their fabulous music but their continued support to local charities it is with great pleasure and huge thanks that the Morningside Umbrella Festival welcomes the wonderful Edinburgh Telephone Choir

ENTRY BY DONATION

DATE: Friday 17th April 2026	TIME: 7:30pm	LOCATION: Morningside Parish Church
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Money raised will be in aid of the Morningside Umbrella Festival raising money for the roof repair at Morningside Parish Church

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

WORSHIP NOTES

Holy Week and Easter 2026

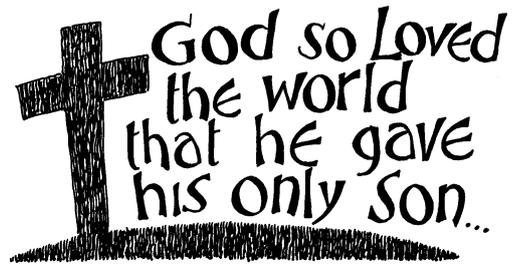
The first two joint Holy Week services will be held at Greenbank Parish Church. This year's retiring offering will go to support the work of Christian Aid in Sudan.

Mundy Thursday - 2nd April, 7.30pm (with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper)

Good Friday - 3rd April, 7.30pm (with joint choirs)

The Holy Saturday service of words and music, Saturday 4th April, will be at 7.30pm in Morningside Parish Church.

Easter Day - Sunday 5th April. There will be one service at 10.30am in our Church.



Remembering Service, 12th April, 3pm

Our Remembering Service is open to everyone in the Church and in the wider community who would like to come and sit quietly at this simple, reflective service, which will last for around half an hour. It is an opportunity to remember those we have loved and lost, recently or a long time ago. During the service there will be an opportunity to write names on stars and attach them to our Remembering tree which will be placed beside the communion table. Please let friends, neighbours and family know that the service is taking place and invite them to attend if they would like. We will serve tea and coffee after the service.

World Day of Prayer – 6th March Service hosted by Morningside Parish Church

The 2026 Theme is “I will give you rest: Come”

This service was prepared by Ecumenical Women in Nigeria (Mathew's Gospel 11:28).

It was lovely to see our friends from Greenbank Church and St Peter's RC Church, and several friends come to be with us. We all enjoyed the worship, and fellowship afterwards.

Many people are due thanks for all they did for the preparation and as participants in leading:

Marion; Olga; Lyn and David; Alison B; Elizabeth; Morag; Heather. The pianist was William, and singing was led by chorister Catherine.

Also thanks to Steve and Phil for the work they did for the seating, tables, IT display & screen.

Thank you to all for coming!

WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNING

I know how you all like to chat. I have seen you on a Sunday after the Service! But we all tend to sit with our own friends (me included). If you would like to meet other members of the Congregation, why not come along to the Wednesday Coffee Morning. You will be made very welcome. Most people come along on their own and just sit where there is a space. You might find yourself speaking to someone new. It is on from 10am to 11:30.



Alternatively, if you would like to volunteer to help, please speak to me after the service or phone me on 07981265308 and leave a message.

Lesley Murphy



ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of
Evelyn Reekie who died on 1 March 2026

FLOWER LIST

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
April	5	EASTER	Flower Committee
	12	Ruth Henderson	Ruth Henderson
	19	Christine Johnston	Karen Keil
	26	Kenny Robertson	Anne Armour

Remember, if you are unable to come to church on your chosen date for any reason, you can always see "your" flowers online.

More helpers are always welcome to join our team, even if you could manage just one or two weeks a year - every little helps.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee



The **Fairtrade Foundation** launched the next chapter "Fair to People" in their **Do it Fair** missions campaign last month.

You can find a link to a video about one of the Fairtrade producers – **Dora's story** – on their website: <https://www.fairtrade.net/uk-en/get-involved/campaign-with-us/current-campaigns/do-it-fair.html>

BEREAVEMENT AND ARRANGING A FUNERAL

Date: Wednesday 8th April

Time: 3.15pm

Where: Cluny Hall, Morningside Parish Church

The only certainties in life are death and taxes!

What do you need to do when a family member, friend or loved one dies? What are the practical steps that need to be taken? Who do you need to contact? How is a funeral arranged and who is responsible for what? How do I begin to cope with bereavement?

Help is at hand. The Minister and local undertakers William Purves are hosting an afternoon event to talk about some of the issues that arise when a death occurs.

The event will last around one hour and is open to anyone who would like to attend.



CARE CONVERSATIONS

Hosted by Morningside Parish Church & Home Instead. Join us to listen, ask questions and share experiences. Teas and coffees will be served from 11am with a prompt start at 11.15am. There are 12 places available at each conversation.



Care in the comfort of your own home

Power Of Attorney Tuesday 26th May, 11am - 1pm

Power of Attorney (POA) is a legal document allowing someone you trust to make decisions on your behalf if you cannot. Being proactive is crucial, as setting it up early ensures your wishes are respected. While DIY options exist, professional advice helps avoid errors and ensures all powers – financial, health, or both – are correctly granted. Choosing the right person, often a family member or trusted professional, is vital. Once executed, it must be registered to be valid. While you may worry about losing control, your attorney has legal responsibilities to act in your best interests at all times.

Navigating the Care Maze Tuesday 13th October, 11am - 1pm

Navigating the Care Maze often begins with how we view care: as a positive way to extend quality of life, or something we avoid until crisis strikes. Reluctance to accept help is natural, yet timely support benefits both the individual and family carers, reducing stress and preventing burnout. Understanding the system – from eligibility criteria to self directed support – empowers better decisions. Subtle signs such as increasing forgetfulness, isolation, falls or difficulty managing daily tasks may indicate care is needed. With ageing populations and personalised funding models growing, planning ahead is only becoming more important.

Contact Jacqui Lindsay on 07834 364 628 or e mail:

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk



Venue Morningside Parish Church, 2 Cluny Gardens, EH10 6BQ.

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

MAY MAGAZINE

Material for the May issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 17th April** and it will be available by Sunday 3rd May. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk or put in her pigeonhole at the church.

DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP

Mary Elizabeth Fry

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sun on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn's rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I did not die.



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Church Office hours are 9.15am – 1.30 pm, Monday to Friday.

Could office-bearers and members of the congregation please ensure that any work you would like to be carried out by the Church Administrator is given with as much notice as possible. There is always a large amount of work going on in and around the Church, over and above routine work, so your understanding and co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

www.morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

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