



Magazine

No. 210 June 2026

Dear Friends

In the 'olden days' there was nearly always in life, whether in the Church, the workplace, school and almost, if not quite everywhere, a sense of relief when the month of June was reached. End-of-term. Longer nights. Sunny weather (some of the time!) A lighter diet of salads and fruit and thirst-quenching drinks. Time to take your foot off the accelerator for a few days or weeks, get out into the open air, walk through the woods, wander along a seashore.

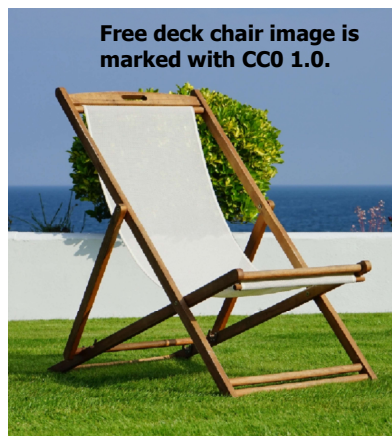
The world has changed. In our 24/7 existence, those long-ago rhythms of work and play, activity and rest, have long since gone. Alexander Whyte, a Free Church minister in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, based at Free St George's Church (later St George's West and now the home of Charlotte Baptist Chapel) used to take around eight to ten weeks off from the beginning of summer until sometime in September. He would leave his manse at 52 Melville Street, and later 7 Charlotte Square, when he would go to his holiday home in the Highlands. Those were the days.

For us, in the C21st, whether we are working or retired the pace of life feels relentless. Children and grandchildren with their days mapped out by clubs and groups and music lessons and sports events rarely have the opportunity to have those long days, unencumbered by planned activity, simply free to go and do

things. Was the world any safer back then than it is now? It would be interesting to consider why things have changed. As we grow older our holidays, at home or abroad, feel like they have to be packed from dawn till dusk with activity and event and sight-seeing, and all recorded on our iPhones and kept in albums we rarely if ever look at again.

Why this need for extensive activity? Are we frightened we will miss out? Do we think if every moment isn't crammed with something we have wasted our time? Is our entire sense of our worth and value completely subsumed in our need to be noticed and busy?

As I write this I not only write to you, but to me. We all need to take a long hard look at who we are and what we do. Not to do nothing, but to get the balance and rhythm of our lives in order. For me the summer months, whilst never entirely switched off, allow that different pace. The time to recharge and refresh and reconsider before the need to re-engage.



Whatever these summer months hold for you, and I know there are many variations in your lives, may God's blessing of restfulness touch you and grace you from time to time, and take God's time to *be*, for the returning of God's time to *do*.

*Very Revd Dr Derek
Browning*

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in May and discussed the following:

Communications Committee: Isobel Paterson, Convener, reported that the committee and Church continued to work hard to keep communication of our work and witness high within the congregation and wider committee. This is done through the website, intimations, weekly email, Facebook page, the Morningside Messenger, and the I Love Morningside Facebook page. She noted that the Jam, Baking and Making stall continued to be not only a good fund-raising method, but also a way in which church people can engage in a beneficial way with the life of our congregation. In 2025 the sum raised was £3,150, and since its inception in 2016 the total raised is £16,167.43

Presbytery Elder's Report: The Clerk reported on the April Presbytery meeting. Ten Readers and a Reader-in-Training (Graeme Allan, who recently completed a placement at Morningside) were introduced to Presbytery, and Presbytery was reminded that Readers can provide pulpit supply, act as chaplains, conduct funerals and, where appointed, share in school assemblies.

Maxine Grant has been appointed as the new Presbytery Administrator and will begin work in June. The Revd Dan Carmichael, Depute Clerk, has accepted a post as Presbytery Clerk of Lothian and Borders and will leave Edinburgh in May.

The Business Committee noted that significant numbers of Presbyters, but particularly Ministers, were not attending Presbytery in person. For Presbyters to play a full part in the life of the Presbytery, they should remember that their ordination vows include participation. All Presbyters have legal trustee responsibilities too. Alongside important governance issues, an equally important aspect of attending Presbytery is mutual support and interaction in the highs and lows, the possibilities and challenges that we all face together as part of the wider Church. Whilst recognising that there are, on occasion, good reasons for not attending in person, online observation is not a substitute and all Presbyters were encouraged to attend in person as the norm. It was noted that whilst this report was aimed at Presbyters, it might also have relevance to elders and attendance at Kirk Session.

SUMMER CONCERTS

Once again this year we plan to hold our three Festival-time concerts - Wednesday lunch-times, 12th, 19th and 26th August, 12.30 to 1.15 pm., in the church.

Plans are still a little (shall we say?) "fluid", but if all goes well there should be: a concert with organ and guest vocal soloist; a concert featuring our Choral Scholars, past and present; and, of course, the ever-popular "4-hands-on-2-pianos" concert with friend and colleague Margaret Donaldson (during which, as usual, our Organist makes a "special annual guest-appearance" as a singer!). Please note the dates now: these are generally hugely enjoyable affairs, and whilst part of their purpose is to raise money for our Choral Scholarship Fund, it is good too to be able to enjoy music in our lovely church. M.W.





MORNINGSIDE UMBRELLA FESTIVAL UPDATE –

SATURDAY 30th MAY - SUNDAY 14th JUNE 2026

The Umbrella Festival is now underway! 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).

UMBRELLA FESTIVAL CONCERTS IN THE CHURCH –

Schools United in Music and Talent, Thursday 4th June, 6.45pm. Entry by Donation.

Buckstone Community Choir, Tuesday 9th June at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Kerry Watt or Eventbrite – Adults £5 and Children £2

An Evening with Keith Jack, Friday 12th June at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Kerry Watt or Eventbrite – from £28

Family Ceilidh, Sunday 14th June 5pm - 8pm. Join us as our wonderful Festival comes to an end. Tickets are now on sale and are priced at £12 for adults and £8 for children.

For further information about any of the above please contact Kerry Watt on 07530 971367 or email kerryelgey@hotmail.co.uk

AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday, 15th August, 2.30 - 4.30pm

Come along and enjoy Afternoon Tea to catch up and meet new people and enjoy some homemade baking in the Braid Hall on Saturday, 15th August 2026.

Tickets cost £20.00 and will be on sale on Sundays 26th July, 2nd and 9th August from Kim Milne and Fiona Gossip.

If you require transport to and from the Church, let us know and we will try to organise something for you.

If you have any dietary needs, please let us know when buying your ticket.

We look forward to seeing you there for a lovely afternoon.



WORSHIP NOTES

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be shared at 9.30am and 10.30am in the Church on Sunday 7th June. This will be during the Umbrella Festival so the Church will look a little different on the inside to usual! We gather, as always, under the protective umbrella of God's love for us.



Choral Evensong, Sunday 21st June

Led by our organist Morley Whitehead, the choir will lead a service of Choral Evensong at 6.30pm on Sunday 21st June. Evensong is a church service most commonly associated with the Church of England (it has never played much of a part within the Church of Scotland), and is traditionally held near twilight. It focusses on singing psalms and other biblical canticles, usually in the Anglican church music tradition. It is loosely based on the canonical hours of vespers and compline. Old English speakers translated the Latin word *vesperas* as *æfensang*, which became 'evensong' in modern English.

Our Choir plays a major part in our morning services from October through to June, and we remain grateful to them for this contribution to our worship.

The service on 21st June will also provide an opportunity to make donations to go towards the funding of choral scholarships into the future.

9.30am services

The 9.30am services finish on Sunday 14th June and recommence on Sunday 6th September. We are grateful to the pianists and organist who help support these services throughout the year.

AUTUMN TALK

This September there will be **one** Autumn talk. This event is jointly hosted with Greenbank Parish Church and will be held in Greenbank on Sunday 20th September at 6.30pm (for refreshments) with the talk starting at 7pm. A speaker is being arranged.



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest member:

Olivia Rennie, admitted by Profession of Faith;

FLOWER LIST

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

		Donated by	Arranged by
June	7	Charles & Irene Wilson	Irene Wilson
	14	Douglas Walker	Penny Graham
	21	Helen Duffy	Ruth Henderson
	28	Fiona Watt	Karen Keil
July	5	Ewan & Sally Brown	Eleanor Watt
	12	Moira Forsyth	Irene Wilson
	19	Barry & Helen Hughes	Eleanor Watt



Our small band of Flower Ladies is, as always, looking for people to help with our displays. Even if you were able to help out a couple of weeks a year it would help. You never know what you are capable of until you try and we are more than willing to pair up with anyone who would like to give it a go. There is no restriction on gender - if there are any gentlemen in the congregation who would like to join us (as they have with the Sunday coffee rota), we would quite happily become Flower People.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you are interested. I can be contacted at irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com (Tel: 0131 449 2866) or speak to any of the Flower Ladies taking down the displays on a Sunday.

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee

MORNINGSIDE HOPE TALK

We had our **Annual Morningside Hope Talk** on 5th May, **A Walk down the Royal Mile** given by Mr Eric Melvin. Eric was hugely engaging as always, speaking for an hour without one note and leaving us wanting more. The afternoon went well with approximately 40 people in attendance. Feedback was very positive and a good number stayed on for coffee and a chat afterwards.





Morningside Hope



FORTHCOMING DATES

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

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

Annual Art Exhibition: Saturday 26th September

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

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

June: 1st & 15th **July:** 6th & 20th **August:** 3rd & 17th

GENTLE EXERCISE CLASSES: dementia friendly but **open to all 60+**

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

Held on 2nd and 4th **Mondays** in the month, 2-4pm in the church itself

June: 8th & 22nd *No classes in July or August*

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

June: 17th No games July or August

ANIMAL AFTERNOON: Tuesday 23rd June Therapy ponies 2- 4pm

PLAYLIST FOR LIFE training – Friday 19th June 10am – 4pm

This interactive course explains the benefits of using personalised playlists to support people living with dementia and helps you to learn how to integrate these playlists into people's daily lives.

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 need a lot of willing hands to enable this 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

**PLAYLIST FOR LIFE TRAINING DAY FRIDAY
19TH JUNE 10 – 4PM**

Over two decades of scientific research has shown that listening to a personal playlist can improve the lives of people living with dementia. They can help reduce anxiety, improve mood, make difficult tasks more manageable and evoke memories that can help families and carers connect.



This interactive course explains the benefits of using personalised playlists to support people living with dementia and helps you to learn how to integrate these playlists into people's daily lives.

At time of writing, there are a still a few places left on this course. The day will be fully catered. Places are free but donations are welcome. All donations will go to our Morningside Hope Project.

If you are interest in booking a place or simply **interested in finding out a little bit more**, just contact our Pastoral Assistant Jacqui Lindsay on 07834 364 628 or email:

pastoralassistant@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk

**COME ENJOY AN AFTERNOON WITH SOME ADORABLE
MINIATURE SHETLAND PONIES**



The therapeutic benefits of spending time with animals have long been understood - being with animals does us good.

With that in mind, we have arranged a very special visit from some therapy ponies, giving us a chance to pet, feed and generally enjoy the company of these gentle, gorgeous animals.

You would be very welcome to join us on:

Tuesday 23rd June, 2- 4pm in St Matthews' Hall.

We may even be able to stretch to a cup of tea, but for us, not them 😊

Entry is by donation; all donations will go towards our Morningside Hope project.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND - TABEETHA SCHOOL

On Wednesday 17th June, at 3.30pm in the Cluny Hall, Kate Freedman, the Development Officer of the Tabeetha School, Jaffa, Israel-Palestine will give a talk on the important work this school does. The school has been in existence for over 160 years.

In 1863, Jane Walker–Arnott, the eldest daughter of a Glasgow University professor, founded the school to give the girls of Jaffa a measure of dignity and independence in an oppressive society.

Jane, accompanied by her sister Emilia, left Scotland for the Holy Land in 1858 for the benefit of her delicate health. She worked with the German Basel Mission in the Port of Jaffa, a run-down community of Christian and Muslim Arabs under Turkish rule. She returned to Scotland in 1860, but, having concern for the plight of the girls and women she had seen in the Holy Land, was drawn back to Jaffa.

Tabeetha admitted its first pupils, fourteen Christian, Jewish and Muslim girls on 16th March 1863 to a room in Jane Walker-Arnott's house. The girls were taught to read and write, to study the Bible and to become skilled at sewing and lace-making. The lace was sold in Scotland to raise money for the school.

The School believes that, by consistently serving pupils of all faiths and nationalities, we are creating a positive, challenging and supportive learning environment which values individual differences and learning styles.

The School aims to provide high quality education in English and encourage tolerance and understanding, ensuring children live, learn and work together in a spirit of peace and unity. We do so by empowering pupils to be respectful, responsible and productive citizens in a constantly changing global society.

The School is dedicated to preparing our pupils to reach their full potential as independent and confident thinkers who are compassionate problem solvers and leaders in tomorrow's complex world.

Through the work of the Tabeetha School in Jaffa, the Church of Scotland, in the tradition of Christian witness, provides support and involves families in the realisation of a shared community vision.





Quiz

Let's get quizzing for Christian Aid Week 2026! Have fun and fund hope for people living in poverty around the world.

Round 1: Seven days to make a difference

1. Christian Aid Week is seven days to make a difference. In which year was it first held? **1957 (70th year celebrations next year!!)**
2. According to the "Monday's Child" rhyme, what is the child born on a Wednesday full of? **Woe**
3. 'Seven Days In May' was an Oscar nominated 1964 cold-war thriller. Which of these leading actors **did not** star in it?
A) Ava Gardner b) Kirk Douglas c) Burt Lancaster **d) Anne Bancroft**
4. In which month of the golfing calendar does The Masters week take place in Augusta? **April**
5. In the Great British Bake Off, which is the dreaded week where contests are judged on their kneading skills in the hope of a coveted 'Hollywood Handshake'? **Bread week**



Round 2: Popular Boardgames

1. In Monopoly, how much do you collect when you pass "Go"? **£200**
2. In Trivial Pursuit, how many wedges are needed to fill a playing piece? **Six**
3. In The Game of Life, what is the first big milestone many players choose between?
Going to University or Starting a Career
4. In the game Guess Who? how many characters are there to choose from? **24**
5. What is the highest value property in UK Monopoly? **Mayfair-**

Quiz

Round 3: Kenya

1. How many countries border Kenya. **5 - Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia**
2. What is Kenya's full name? **The Republic of Kenya**
3. What is the estimated population of Kenya?
35 million b) 47 million or c) **53 million?**
53 million, the 27th most populous in the world and the 7th most populous in Africa
4. Can you name Kenya's big five the safari-goers hope to spot?
Lion, Leopard, African Elephant, Rhinoceros and Buffalo.
5. Can you name the longest river in Kenya? **River Tana (also sometimes called Sagana), flowing 440 miles to the Indian Ocean**

Round 4: Name that hymn



Unscramble each line. These popular hymn lyrics have been rearranged in alphabetical order. Can you unscramble them and identify which popular hymn the lyrics are from?

Example: am are but I mighty weak you = I am weak, but you are mighty from Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer

1. Clouded forth hills our shine upon
Shine forth upon our clouded hills, Jerusalem
2. God Saviour sing soul then my my to thee
Then sing my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, How Great Thou Art
3. All God Lord made the them
The Lord God made them all, All things Bright and Beautiful
4. Beauty of peace the thy
The beauty of Thy peace, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
5. Green he leadeth me in pastures
In pastures green: he leadeth me, The Lord is my shepherd

Quiz

Round 5: Kings and Queens

1. Queen Elizabeth II was England's longest serving monarch, but which English monarch had the shortest reign?
Lady Jane Grey, known as "The Nine Days' Queen," reigned for just nine days.
2. Which British monarch changed the royal house name to Windsor in 1917?
King George V changed the family name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor during World War I.
3. Which king issued the Magna Carta in 1215?
King John of England
4. Who succeeded William The Conqueror on the throne, after he fell from his horse in 1087?
William (I) The Conqueror was succeeded by William (II)
5. Which King was born in Westminster Abbey?
Edward V (1483 - 1483) Edward was actually born in Westminster Abbey, where his mother Elizabeth Woodville had sought sanctuary from the Lancastrians during the Wars of the Roses.



Round 6: General Knowledge

1. What is the painting 'La Gioconda' more famously known as?
The Mona Lisa
2. When and where was the first modern Olympic games held?
Athens, 1986
3. How many eyes does a bee have? **Five**
4. Which country has the longest coastline in the world? **Canada**
5. Which actor plays the titular soldier in Saving Private Ryan? **Matt Damon**

Thanks for supporting Christian Aid using our fundraising quiz, we hope you had fun. You can pay any donations collected online, or set up an online giving page for you event at caweek.org, Alternatively, you can send a cheque to Christian Aid, 35-45 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL

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SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE

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

LITTLE WHITE LILY

Little white Lily
Sat by a stone,
Drooping and waiting
Till the sun shone.
Little white Lily
Sunshine has fed;
Little white Lily
Is lifting her head.

Little white Lily
Said: 'It is good:
Little white Lily's
Clothing and food!
Little white Lily
Drest like a bride!
Shining with whiteness,
And crownèd beside!'

Little white Lily
Droopeth in pain,
Waiting and waiting
For the wet rain.
Little white Lily
Holdeth her cup;
Rain is fast falling,
And filling it up.

George MacDonald

Little white Lily
Said: 'Good again,
When I am thirsty
To have nice rain!
Now I am stronger,
Now I am cool;
Heat cannot burn me,
My veins are so full!'

Little white Lily
Smells very sweet:
On her head sunshine,
Rain at her feet.
'Thanks to the sunshine!
Thanks to the rain!
Little white Lily
Is happy again!'



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