



Magazine

No. 212 October 2026

Dear Friends

Reaching my 25th anniversary as Minister at Morningside gave me opportunity to pause and be thankful for the time I have spent here. A quarter of a century (which makes it sound so much longer) is a large part of a working life. In the time here we worked happily through the union between Cluny and Braid; we started the choral scholarship programme; we refurbished the Willis organ; we gradually reshaped the physical shape of our Church and Halls, with the last significant change being the replacement of pews (and Victorian heating) with flexible chairs. We have shaped and reshaped our Sunday services. We have enabled live-streaming of services. We established the Morningside Hope project. We purchased a mini-grand piano. We added to the number of Bible text boards above the communion table. We made the church and halls disabled-accessible. We created a new kitchen. We have added many new elders to the Kirk Session. We have included children and young people actively in our Sunday services. We celebrate the 90th birthdays of our older members with cakes. We have weekly coffee after the Sunday service. We have revamped the monthly magazine and started the weekly email. We have the weekly Wednesday Coffee morning. We have the Baby and Toddlers' Group.



Whilst I have much to be thankful for in these twenty-five years, I am acutely aware that I am only a part of all that has happened. The lion's share of the work has been imagined and carried out by the members of our congregation, our elders, and our Church staff, to whom our greater thanks is due. The legacy is not mine, it is **ours**.

Maya Angelou, thinking about legacy, has written: "*You have no*

idea what your legacy will be. Your legacy is what you do every day. Your legacy is every life you've touched, every person whose life was either moved or not. It's every person you've harmed or helped. That's your legacy."

For me, I give thanks for the people who have helped and encouraged me, those very much here, and those now in the communion of saints. I seek forgiveness for the times when I've not lived up to expectations, or caused unnecessary upset; and I look to the time ahead with hope and with commitment, believing we have still much to do.

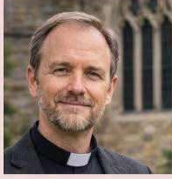
One final quote, from the late, great Dolly Parton: "*I wouldn't be here if you hadn't been there.*"

Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart.

Very Revd Dr Derek
Browning



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



Vicar's Standard Apology Form

(Please tick the one you need me to apologise about and then stick it to your fridge)

I'm SO sorry that...

- ☐ You didn't know the hymn
- ☐ The church was too cold for your t-shirt
- ☐ The toilet wasn't redolent with the odour of a soft-rained meadow
- ☐ You didn't know that event was on (it's been in the bulletin for weeks)
- ☐ I mis-pronounced your favourite Greek*, Hebrew*, Medieval* word
- ☐ My sermon was longer than your attention span*/ bladder control*
- ☐ My sermon was too short for your academic interest*/ morning nap*
- ☐ The time of our service doesn't suit your domestic arrangements
- ☐ That the unusual length of the service meant your parking ran out
- ☐ That you don't like our choice of coffee*/tea*/wine*/squash*/biscuits*
- ☐ That a homeless man* / screaming child* / teenager* / toddler* / person living with memory loss* spoiled your 'holy time with the Lord'
- ☐ That you don't like vicars in robes
- ☐ That you don't like vicars in jeans
- ☐ That you don't like guitars
- ☐ That you don't like organs
- ☐ I don't talk enough about congregation giving
- ☐ I talk too much about congregational giving
- ☐ That your story about your 1985 cruise didn't make it into the newsletter
- ☐ That my psychic powers don't stretch to divining that you would appreciate a pastoral visit

Tim

Rev. Dr Tim Keen, Vicar

**delete as appropriate*

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in September and discussed the following:

Morningside Youth Choir: The Moderator advised the choir had enrolled 26 young people and was to hold its first meeting on Friday 4 September.

Morningside Umbrella Festival: Robert Armour reported that the final total reached from the Festival was £95,000. There may be some income to come from sales of remaining umbrellas and Frisbees for dogs but any such Income will be put to general church funds.

The Moderator thanked Kerry Watt and her team for their hard work and also all who had supported the Festival which he rated as a phenomenal success.

Property: Moira Clark, Fabric Convenor gave an Update report on the Roof Repair. The summer weather has been kind to us and so the repairs to the roof have progressed well. We are in the final stages now and then will only have interior repairs to complete. Overall, the work required has been less than we had worried about, with water ingress damage considerably lower than we had prayed possible. The roofers had to amend slightly their programme after discovering the roof structure, or lack thereof, beneath the zinc, was not in place, and this did cause a few tense moments, but they and the architect worked quickly to resolve the issues and as a result we did not lose too much time on the project. The internal work required will be to patch the plaster work in the corridor, which was damaged by the activity above it, to repair the ceiling in the entrance hall where the water poured in during a thundery downpour at our weakest point in the job, and to replace fascia boards on the ceiling and walls in the corridor. This is in hand with the architect. Photographs had been circulated showing some of the stages of the repair for those interested in the process, and our shiny new roof!

Manse repair: Unfortunately, two lead pipes had burst in the solum of the Manse. One had leaked down "just" soaking the solum but the other had sprayed upwards rotting the joists and underside of the flooring in the sitting room. The flooring boards have been replaced but need to dry out before decoration. However the room was usable. There may be a possible insurance claim to be made.

Outreach Committee: Kim Milne, Convenor reported The supported charities for 2026 were;

• The Edinburgh Clothing Store • Morningside Parish Church • David Nott Foundation

Further donations made at the end of 2025 in addition to the committed amounts:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| • The Edinburgh Clothing Store | £3,794.15 |
| • Morningside Parish Church | £2,300.00 |
| • David Nott Foundation | £3,475 15 |

Donations made in 2026 to date:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| • The Edinburgh Clothing Store | £1,500.00 |
| • David Nott Foundation | £1,500.00 |

Funds for the 2026 distributions will come from the following sources:

- Tea & Coffee donations
- Afternoon Tea – 15 August.2026 £1,067.00
- Clever Clogs Quiz Night – 3 October 2026
- Speaker Supper – 27 November 2026
- Christmas Eve & Day Services - funds were allocated to The Edinburgh Clothing Store and the David Nott Foundation

The funds are distributed in line with the following parameters: The external charities receive an initial sum of £1,500. Any further funds raised after these payments have been met are distributed equally among the external charities and Morningside Parish Church, unless otherwise stated.

Date For Your Diary:

15 November 26 – Edinburgh Clothing Store - Children's Clothes Drive

December 2026 marks the end of our support for the David Nott Foundation. As you will be aware, we have supported this very worthwhile charity for an extra year.

Communication Committee: Isobel Paterson, Convenor reported that while the committee hope that its communication to members of the church and to our community is good, it is open to suggestions as to how it might be improved. Present tasks relate to the following:

- Banners We are reviewing these to check for any that might need replaced due to wear and tear over the years, or for new ones that might be devised.
- Website The working of the present website is problematic and the company who maintain it warn us that it needs replacing. A subgroup of Dorothy Mushet, Kerry Watt and Alex Bleck, with the Minister, has been set up to determine the look and function of a new website, and the expenditure on it has been noted by the Treasurer.
- Christmas Tree Festival The group will meet on 1 October to firm up on arrangements for this. More details will emerge from that meeting, but the period of Friday 11 – Sunday 20 December remains as previously announced.
- Christmas Cards - the 2026 order has been placed.

PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) - Safeguarding Report: Neil Thrower reminded Session that Trustee Safeguarding Training is available on Saturday 12 September in the St Matthew's Hall. It is relevant for all elders as Trustees of the congregation to attend but if this date is not possible an alternative online version is available on Wednesday 16 September at 7.00pm. Booking details for both events are available from Neil or the Church Office. He also requested and was granted formal approval for new appointments to undertake regulated work - for regulated work with protected adults in the role of pastoral care with Morningside Hope, and in the role of Congregational Safeguarding Panel Member.

Craft Group: Morag Shankland reported that a Craft Group had been established by Catriona Reid, Rona McLaren and herself and its first meeting had attracted 20 people. Following the work done for the Umbrella Festival they are planning future decorative work.

It was also reported that Rona McLaren had secured for the period from 19 July to 1 August 2027 the Knitted Bible Exhibition, which consists of 36 knitted scenes from the Bible. It was created by members of St George's URC in Hartlepool. The period of hire has to include collection, unpacking, set up and repacking. It is hoped that teas and coffees can be served during opening hours. Session welcomed the proposal and was grateful to Rona for her initiative.

Stewardship & Finance Committee: Robert Armour, Convenor, reported that he had written to the uniformed organisations about reviewing the low level of rents charged to them. He planned to meet with them to discuss it. The Clerk also reported that the regular review of all rentals was underway, taking into account the substantial increases in costs of electricity and gas which have occurred. A flat rate increase based on existing rental levels has been proposed to reflect these increased costs. It has also become clear that some are making greater use of our premises than they have booked or indeed pay for. So far as possible, differentials are made between organisations which were essentially using our premises for trading (whether or not registered as a charity) or for benevolent purposes. The review is ongoing.

Autumn Lecture: Greenbank Parish Church is hosting it this year and it is restricted to a single event - journalist James Naughtie will speak on "Events in the USA".

Social Committee: The Afternoon Tea, held in the Sanctuary because of the roof work on the Braid Hall, had raised over £1,000.

Worship Committee: The Moderator reported that David Stewart, organist at the 9.30 Communion Service, had retired. He will be missed. Martyn Strachan will take over this role.

Presbytery Elder's Report: Presbytery met on 16 June 2026. A wide range of reports were made, reflecting the breadth of work undertaken. In some ways it had the tone of an end of term report.

Our Moderator, Dr Browning, has completed his term of office as Business Convenor of the Presbytery and was thanked for, *"all the work he undertook as convenor of the Business Committee during the formative years of the united Presbyteries of Edinburgh and West Lothian."* This and other work carried out on behalf of the Presbytery is on top of congregational and parish duties, and General Assembly work over the years.

The Revd Stewart Weaver was thanked for the work he undertook as the Convenor of the Deployment Committee in taking forward the Presbytery Mission Plan. A lengthy 69-page report was tabled setting out in detail the current position of the Presbytery Mission Plan. While clearly much work has been involved, it is also clear that much remains outstanding, not least the position of our own church in relation to Greenbank and Fairmilehead.

New Appointments: The Moderator advised that we would be joined by Probationer Ordained Local Minister, Janet Shepherd, who would be with us for a year. Shirley-Ann Gray would also be with us, as an Enquirer for Ministry, for six months.

AUTUMN LECTURE

On Sunday 20 September, James Naughtie delivered a very interesting talk to a packed Greenbank Church with his insights into the political situation in the USA. He had kindly asked that his fee be donated to Morningside Umbrella Appeal. We were told that a cornucopia of home baking awaited us after the talk but the route I followed out of the church managed to miss it, sadly!.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be shared at 9.30am and 10.30am in the Church on Sunday 4 October. At the 10.30am service those wishing to have communion with the Common Cup can join the Minister at a table placed near the vestibule of the Church as on previous occasions.



Remembrance Sunday service will be at 10.45am on Sunday 8 November. There is no 9.30am service that day.

Light in the Darkness

A day of prayer for the Church of Scotland and the communities of Scotland

"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." - John 1:5

The Church of Scotland has set the date of **Saturday 31 October** as a day of prayer, where our churches might take an hour in that day to pray for the Church of Scotland and the communities of Scotland, and beyond in the places where the Church is present across the world.

The Minister, with our Probationer and Enquirer, will be considering how we might do this in our Church. More details may follow in the intimations and weekly email.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ENQUIRER!

My name is Shirley-Ann Gray, I live in Kilngate, Gilmerton with my cat, Leo. I enjoy swimming and going for walks in nature and love animals and nature and taking photographs of scenery, the sea, nature and the sky. I am greatly enjoying spending time at Morningside Parish Church and have just started my discernment placement to look into the possibility of becoming an OLM in the future. Derek has very kindly offered to be my mentor during this process and has given me some tasks to support my development.

My regular place of worship is SEECOS (South East Edinburgh Church of Scotland), primarily the Tron in Moredun and the Hub in Gilmerton, though I attend joint SEECOS services and events and currently facilitate a Bible Study group that covers all SEECOS churches - the group currently has 11 members. I also support my minister, Cammy and our Deacon, Liz with Bible readings, prayers, working with children in the Brigade and at Messy Church, and leading prayer, worship and reflections from the Bible in 24 hours of Prayer meetings at the Tron.

I am currently a project worker with Barnardo's, running the Moving Forward for Parents programme in Midlothian - I work with families who are experiencing various types of hardship and meet with them in groups and as individuals to support their growth and development and to assist them accessing funds and resources to support them out of poverty.





WELCOME TO OUR NEW PROBATIONER!

Dear Friends,

It is great to be joining you at Morningside Parish Church as I start my probationary year to become an Ordained Local Minister (more commonly referred to as OLM). The Very Rev Dr Derek Browning has kindly agreed to be my supervisor. I look forward to growing my experience in the various facets of ministry life and getting to know you all – young, old and everything in between.

My “home” church was Colinton Parish Church where I have worshipped for almost 30 years, and I have been an elder there for about 25 years. Following the union with Juniper Green Parish Church, we are now Edinburgh Pentland Parish Church and Rev Callum MacFarlane-Grieve was ordained and inducted into the charge earlier this year.

During the Covid years I became more involved in contributing to worship in Colinton, and our then minister Rev Rolf Billes encouraged me in this exploration. I was accepted to train as a candidate in 2023. This triggered my decision to take early retirement so that I could focus on the academic study and placements. Prior to retiring, most of my professional life was as an environmental chemist/manager, with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) being my final employer.

But who am I? I am married, with a 25 year old son who lives with us. I was brought up in the Highlands, but left when I was 17 to go to university (Edinburgh) to study Chemistry. My mother still lives on the Black Isle which gives me a great excuse to visit that beautiful part of the country!

In my own time I love to get out for a local walk or cycle, and most of our holidays are spent walking or cycling somewhere in Scotland or North England. We delight in spotting wild birds and flowers on our walks. When you tune in to seeing or hearing things in nature, there is a wonderful and beautiful variety at almost any time of year!

I look forward to getting to know you over the coming months and sharing in the journey of faith with you. Please bear with me if I don't get things quite right or ask you yet again what your name is!

With love in Christ,

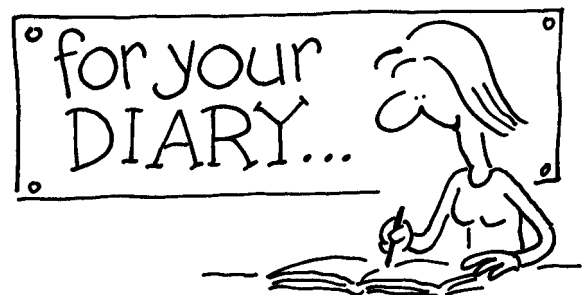
Janet Shepherd

SAVE THE DATE(S)

The Outreach Committee are delighted to announce the return of the Clever Clogs Quiz Night on Saturday 3 October 2026.

There will also be a Speaker Supper, to be held on Friday 27 November 2026.

Further details for both events will follow.





KIRK KRAFTERS

Kirk Krafters has had an excellent start to this new Church group in August and September. So please come and join us for our next meeting which is on **Tuesday 27 October** from 7-9pm in Cluny Hall (please note there is a group in before us so you may have to wait before entering the hall) which is open to church members as well as the community. Cost £5.

Please come with projects you are working on, might require some assistance with, or help with a project for the Church or learn something new e.g. macramé, as we would like to have a variety of crafts so if anyone has any ideas let us know.

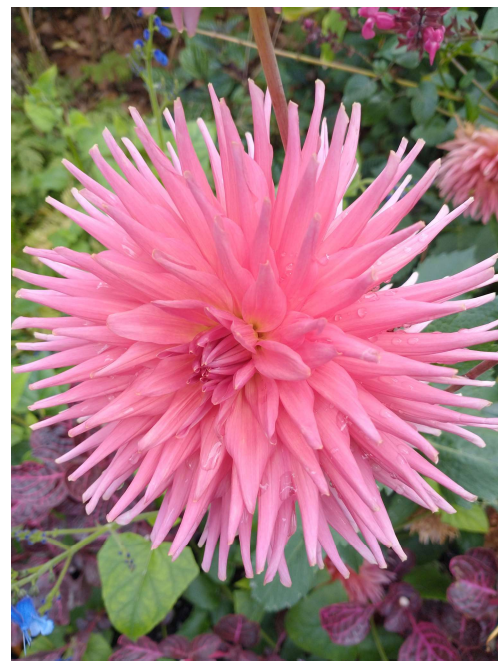
As well as evenings, if anyone wishes to come on a Wednesday morning in the Braid Hall from 10 to 11.30am with their own project or for assistance you would be most welcome. There will be refreshments for which a donation will be acceptable.

Further information from Catriona Reid 07929 866669, Morag Shankland 07977 190536 or Rona McLaren 07929 830112

FLOWER LIST

The flowers for October were donated and arranged as follows:

		Donated by	Arranged by
October	4	Doreen Reekie	Irene Wilson & Moira Forsyth
	11	Joyce Maclean	Penny Graham
	18	Robert McCabe	Karen Keil
	25	Jennifer Rimer	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. One volunteer has recently come forward to give it a try - we hope that she'll stay!

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

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



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

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

October: 5th & 19th

November: 2nd & 16th

December: 7th (Christmas party) & 21st

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

October: 12th & 26th

November: 9th & 23rd

December: 14th (Christmas party)

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

October: 21st

November: 18th

December: 16th (Christmas party)

ANIMAL AFTERNOON: Wednesday 7th October

Alpacas 2- 4pm (TBC)

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONCERTS

We offer four dementia friendly concerts each year. Open to everyone, this will be a varied programme. Next concert:-

Saturday 28th November. 2pm featuring the Rock Choir

PLAYLIST FOR LIFE

Over two decades of scientific research has shown that listening to a personal playlist can improve the lives of people living with dementia. Our trained volunteers can support you to create a personalised playlist that can help • reduce anxiety • improve your mood • make difficult tasks more manageable • evoke memories that can help families and carers connect. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Jacqui on the number or email below.

PASTORAL SKILLS COURSE, Part 2: running over two evenings, Tuesday 20th & 27th October.

Open to those who have completed the introductory course above and want to further develop their skills and knowledge. Specialist subject for level two will be bereavement.

The church also offers Wednesday Coffee Mornings, every Wed. 10 – 11.30am – all welcome!

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

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

MORNINGSIDE HOPE SUMMER WORKER



I have had the absolute pleasure of working as the Summer Worker with Morningside Hope for the last few months. As an existing Choral Scholar here, I was very keen to get more involved with the Congregation and the amazing work that Morningside Hope does. I have had the delight of working with the Music and Memories class, as well as Heart for Art on Tuesdays. More than anything, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone and hearing everyone's stories.

It has been lovely to get to know the wonderful group of volunteers and I have particularly enjoyed working alongside Jacqui Lindsay and seeing all the work that goes on behind the scenes to make everything happen. She has been a great person to learn from over the summer, and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

As well as helping with the two classes, I have loved being able to join groups on outings as part of Morningside Hope, including a canal boat trip and even giving lawn bowls a go! I also loved helping to organise the day trip to the Seabird Centre and North Berwick, which proved to be a very popular trip.

The work that Morningside Hope does is just great, and it has been such a pleasure to be a part of it this summer. I look forward to continuing with Morningside Hope as I become a Support Worker until Christmas.

Emily MacFarlane

CANAL BOAT TRIP



We had a lovely afternoon out on the canal on Monday 24 August, enjoying a three-hour canal boat trip from Polwarth Parish Church up to Wester Hailes and back.

It was wonderful to travel so far along the canal and, as an added bonus, we had the opportunity to go across the viaduct, which was an amazing experience! The weather was absolutely lovely, allowing us to make the most of the sunshine and sit out on the deck.

We began our trip with a glass of prosecco or orange juice, before enjoying tea and coffee, along with a delicious selection of sandwiches and cakes.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was seeing two swans swimming past the boat with their seven cygnets. It was a beautiful sight and a lovely reminder of the wildlife we can see whilst still in the centre of Edinburgh.



For the most part, it was very smooth sailing, although there were a couple of bumps as we made our way through some of the narrower sections beneath the bridges, resulting in one or two tea spillages.

A big thank you to Polwarth Church and All Aboard for such a wonderful afternoon. It was a lovely opportunity to relax and enjoy a trip on the water.



LAWN BOWLS MORNING OUT

We had a lovely morning out at Braid Bowling Club. Over the course of the morning, we were introduced to some of the basic techniques of lawn bowling before being sorted into teams and having a go ourselves. Each team was joined by a member of the Club, who kindly guided us and shared their expertise. It was definitely harder than it looked.

Thankfully, the rain from earlier that morning soon cleared, and we were fortunate to enjoy some lovely sunshine as we played. There was plenty of friendly competition, laughter and encouragement as everyone got involved and gave it their best shot!

After playing 10 ends, we all came together for tea and coffee. This was a great opportunity to chat and to get to know one another. It was lovely to hear how everyone had got into bowling and their experiences at the club. Eric Melvin also gave us an insight into the history of Braid Bowling Club, which was very interesting to hear.



Many thanks to everyone at Braid Bowling Club for their warm welcome and for giving us such a wonderful and enjoyable experience. It was a fantastic morning of fun and friendship. I am sure that many of us would love to try lawn bowling again.





NORTH BERWICK DAY TRIP

Our third outing was a wonderful day trip to North Berwick. We set off from the Church at 10am and travelled by coach to the Scottish Seabird Centre.

We began our morning with a coffee and scone in the café before heading down to explore the exhibition. There was plenty to see and do, including trying out 3D glasses, watching the live seabird cameras, and even using Virtual Reality goggles to experience an incredible immersive video view of the Bass Rock.

We also had the opportunity to speak with some of the staff, who told us all about the Centre's conservation projects, shared interesting facts about Scotland's

seabird life, and explained the importance of the SOS Puffin Scheme. Running since 2013, the scheme aims to increase the number of puffin pairs on the Bass Rock by removing intrusive plants, with the help of a team of dedicated volunteers.

After enjoying the immersive exhibition, some of us returned to the café for a lovely fish and chips lunch, while others took the opportunity to explore the town.

A wee walk, an ice cream and some time sitting on the beach rounded off our relaxing afternoon. We then climbed back aboard the bus and headed home to Edinburgh after another enjoyable day together.



Once again, we were very fortunate with the weather, which gave us wonderful views across the beach and out towards the beautiful Bass Rock. We even saw some gannets diving for fish! It was a lovely day filled with great company, interesting things to see, and a great opportunity to enjoy the seaside.

Emily MacFarlane, Morningside Hope Summer Worker



SUMMER CONCERTS 2026

12 August The concert opened with Psalm 150, "*Praise God in his sanctuary*" sung by all seven choral scholars. Emily MacFarlane played Rachmaninov's *Vocalise*, arranged as a violin duo, soaring and melancholic, with Morley (MW) on piano. Niamh Lowe, MW accompanying, sang Burns' lyrical "*Flow gently sweet Afton*" and Mendelsohn's "*Schifflied*", initially swift and dramatic then slow and more measured. Rafal Hill played Vizzuti's "*Polka*" jolly and modern on his tenor horn, then Tarrega's classical Spanish tune, "*Recuerdos de la Alhambra*", a tricky piece with pronounced tremolo, on his guitar. Catriona Polson played Debussy's "*La fille aux cheveux de lin*", the lovely little piano prelude better known as "*The girl with the flaxen hair*". Henry Jones, fresh from the Proms and Albert Hall, displayed his amazing skill on the xylophone with G. H. Green's "*Valse Brillante*", with notes cascading from one end of the keyboard to the other - MW was on piano. Meabh Downie sang Thomas Moore's charming Irish melody "*The Meeting of the Waters*" and James Moore's beautiful "*An Irish Blessing*". The scholars ended the concert, *a capella*, with Arthur Sullivan's gorgeous "*The long day closes*". The large and appreciative audience, who practically filled the church, enjoyed a splendid concert and I can't do better than agree with MW's own verdict "Didn't they do well?"

19 August MW, on the organ, began by waking us all up with Philip Moore's *Paean* – very loud, rhythmic and at times discordant. Then he played us two Bach transcriptions – *Bist du bei mir*, a beautiful little melody written for Magdalena, his wife, followed by *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*. Next, Audrey Hogg, one of our previous choral scholars, in her lovely mezzo-soprano voice, gave us three songs: Brahms' *Wie Melodien*, comparing gentle melodies to scented spring flowers, Dvorak's poetic "*Kdyz men atara matka*", nostalgic recollections of songs his mother taught him while singing them to his own children, and Faure's "*En Sourdine*", describing the tranquility of love. Then MW played the *Andantino in G*, Franck's first published work, for the harmonium, an imposing piece with a stately opening, deep chords and vox humana section towards the end. Audrey came back with two powerfully expressive songs, "*Immer leiser wird mein Schlummer*" by Brahms, lamenting the loss of his love, then "*Verborgenheit*" by Hugo Wolf, lonely and melancholic. She and MW sounded almost like a single instrument, in perfect harmony. MW returned, first with Mozart's *Larghetto* from the Clarinet Quintet, superbly transcribed for the organ, transporting us to a different, higher realm – absolutely heavenly. He closed with Dubois' *Toccata in G*, ending the concert as it had begun – rousing, fast, loud, with quiet interludes, and a massive finale. We had a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining time.

26 August The third concert, with four hands on two pianos, opened with Dvorak's *Slavonic Dance in C* – rapid and melodious, with MW playing the bass lines and Margaret Donaldson on treble. Then we had the *Four Suites* by Richard Rodney Bennett (we went to the same school, though he was four years senior to me) – a complex and demanding work in four parts: *Samba triste*, rhythmic with complex chords, *Country Blues*, calm and wistful *Ragtime waltz*, cheerful and lively with Dixieland undertones and an emphatic and jazzy *Finale*. We continued the American theme with Irving Berlin's *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, for those who like classic traditional jazz - and who doesn't! Next came MW's Novelty Items: Noel Coward's witty "*Mad dogs and Englishmen*" and the ever-popular Flanders and Swann's "*The Gasman Cometh*" sung clearly and expressively. Brahms' three lovely little waltzes (Op. 39 Nos 2, 14, 15) followed and the programme ended with Ganz's "*Qui Vive! Grand Galop de Concert*", as MW said "A feel-good piece", tuneful and fast. The audience was sent on its way with Bratton and Kennedy's "*The Teddy Bears' Picnic*" as an encore and, over the three concerts, more than £2,000 was collected to support next year's choral scholars.

Barry Hughes

Come and meet the Alpacas!



Returning by popular demand!

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 return visit from some of the residents of our local alpaca farm to give 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:



Wednesday 7th October



**St Matthews Hall, Morningside Parish Church,
2 Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh EH10 6BQ**



2 - 4pm.



**Teas and coffees will then be served just
after 3pm**



**Entry is by donation. All donations will
go towards our Morningside Hope Project**



ROLL CHANGES

Please give a warm welcome to our newest members, joining by Certificates of Transference:-

- Fiona Gossip
- Very Revd David and Rosemary Arnott
- Kate and Stuart Fleming

Please remember in your prayers:-

- Ann Howieson, who died on 31 July 2026
- Sheila Mackellar, who died on 28 August 2026
- Iris Moyes, who died on 26 September 2026
- Walter Thomson, who died on 27 September 2026
- Lyn Mitchell, who died on 28 September 2026



BIBLE PUZZLE

How many books of the bible can you find hidden within the text below?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found in a seat pocket by a gentleman who was comfortably settled into his seat after cleaning his rain-dampened shoes on the mat he was directed to use by a flight attendant who was greeting boarding passengers on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for

hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it onto some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales records. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, 'the books are all right there is plain view hidden from sight'. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answer. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

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

NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the November issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 16 October** and it will be available by Sunday 1 November. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk or put in her pigeonhole at the church.

TO AUTUMN

John Keats

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-
eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the
core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the
hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set
budding more,
And still more, later flowers
for the bees,
Until they think warm days
will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd
their clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid
thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad
may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy
hook



Spares the next swath and all its twined
flowers:

And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cider-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings, hours by
hours.

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay,
where are they?

Think not of them, thou hast
thy music too,—
While barred clouds bloom the
soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains
with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the
small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne
aloft

Or sinking as the light wind lives
or dies;

And full-grown lambs loud bleat from
hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft,
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

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