



Magazine

No. 213 November 2026

Dear Friends

At the time of writing I am in the midst of a run of seven funerals. A mixture of church members and people living in the parish. Some people I have known very well, some I have never met. It is one of the privileges of ministry that you are given an opportunity to get alongside people in the saddest of times and to help shape and then deliver funeral services. I'm always conscious, however many funerals I may be taking, that for each family or group of friends, the death of their family member or friend is unique to them. Putting a funeral together involves finding the words. Annie Stevenson's poem, 'The Minister', which you'll find at the end of this magazine, has a good way of putting it:

"...we'll get the minister to come and take care of the words...We have to have the minister so the words will know where to go..."

All those circling words, telling stories about life and love, work and rest, hobbies and skills, family and friends, failure and success, doubt and faith. Words that tell the truth (if not always the unvarnished truth!) about the person who has died in order that those coming to the funeral

recognise the person they knew. It's not easy, but it is always important to try to create the kind of atmosphere that helps people to remember and reflect and give thanks, even if through the tears.

All Saints' Tide at the end of October and beginning of November is a time in the Church calendar to remember those we have loved and lost, alongside the other times - the Blue Christmas service a week before Christmas, and the Remembering Service the week after Easter.

The season extends into Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day - where a different kind of remembering takes place to think about those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in times of conflict.



It is good to remember. It is good to give thanks. And when it feels too much, to call to mind the hope of resurrection. Our faith is not boundaried by death; it is predicated on hope and new life to come. It's what gets me through taking seven funerals. Maybe it will help you too.

*Very Revd Dr Derek
Browning*

KIRK SESSION NEWS

The Kirk Session met in October and discussed the following:

In opening worship, the Moderator remembered the life and practical faith of Walter Thomson, one of our senior elders, who died in October.

Presbytery Plan: time was spent discussing recent proposals from the Presbytery's Deployment Committee. The Kirk Session has sent its response which, for the moment, remains confidential until the Presbytery Committee has had opportunity to consider our response, and that of other Kirk Sessions.

Property: Moira Clark, Convener, reported on ongoing property work around the church, including a review of the security system, and snagging around the Braid Hall corridor roof.

Social: Fiona Stimpson, Convener, reported on another busy year for the Social Committee, and thanked the many different people who helped make the events so successful and enjoyable.

- **Coffees** have continued to be served after church services every Sunday. The congregation and many visitors to the church appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to meet and chat over coffees; friendships are both made and maintained at this time and many new members say that the welcome they received (as well as the Moderator's preaching and the music) was instrumental in them deciding to join MPC.
- **Christmas 2025:** On 14 December we served mulled wine and Christmas treats after the Family Service. It seems to be a popular event and a lot of people came and seemed to enjoy the refreshments and the company.
- **In March 2026:** we helped serve coffee and cake at the first Craft Evening held in the Cluny Hall and we also served soup and sandwiches to the people attending the Pastoral Skills training organised by Jacqui Lindsay, the Pastoral Assistant on two evenings.
- **In April:** Easter Treats were again served on Easter Sunday and there was a very good turn out for them.
- **In May:** On the 29th the Social Committee provided Cava and Canapés for the opening event of the Umbrella Festival. On the 31st coffees were served as usual after the morning services but continued until 4.00pm, as the church was open to people to view the Umbrella Displays.
- **In June:** On the 5th we provided the fruit loaves and cakes for the "Tea with Cake" held in the Sanctuary and served this to people from care homes and older people with difficulty getting to events. On the 12th we helped to serve the drinks at the Keith Jack Concert and again at the Ceilidh on the 14th as well as helping to serve the food which was made by a professional chef.
- **In August:** On the 15th we had a good turnout for the Afternoon Tea in the Sanctuary and everyone enjoyed it very much. A total of £1,007 was raised as all the baking, napkins and flowers were donated by the committee.
- **In October:** the Social Committee provided teas and coffees served at the quiz evening organised by the Outreach Committee which was good fun and well attended.

Future Events in 2026:

- **In November:** on Friday 27th November there will be a Speaker Supper organised with the Outreach Committee. Bien Catering have again increased their charges so we have had to increase the cost of a ticket to £30. We still think this is good value for a 2 course meal with coffee and mints plus a speaker, and hope it will be well supported.
- **In December:** once again we will serve refreshments at the Christmas Tree Festival but it has been agreed that it will only be on one Saturday this year. On Sunday 13th after the Family Service, we will serve mulled wine and Christmas treats as always.

None of these events would be possible without the fantastic, willing support of our caretakers, Stevie and Phil. They are both great and do so much for us.

The hospitality we offer is much appreciated by the congregation and wider community who come to the events organised by the Social Committee. The Moderator thanked Fiona and everyone who contributed so much to the social life of our congregation, and a key aspect of our work at Morningside.

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant: a question was asked at the September Kirk Session about the nature and variety of the work carried out on the congregation's behalf by our Minister and Pastoral Assistant. Both chose to submit reports outlining their extensive work in the month of September, which, without breaking any confidences, took elders 'behind the scenes' of what one particular month looked like in relation to workload. Each month is different, of course, and Session had opportunity to consider the extent of administration, pastoral care, worship preparation, candidate supervision, Morningside Hope, engaging with external institutions and charities, and endless emails. The Moderator reflected on how ministry has changed over forty years. When first ordained in 1987, the morning was for the study; the afternoon was for visiting; and evenings were for meetings. Now the immediacy of email, and the need for quick responses demanded in the C21st world has changed so much. However, whenever anyone wanted an ordinary pastoral visit, this could easily be arranged with the Minister, Pastoral Assistant, or elder - though nowadays an appointment generally has to be made as *most* people no longer 'sit at home' waiting for a visit. It was also noted that the Pastoral Assistant is a congregational appointment, overseen by the Moderator and Kirk Session, whereas the Minister, though called by the congregation, is accountable to Presbytery as the appointing body.

The Moderator thanked Jacqui for her sterling work in pastoral care and with Morningside Hope.

Presbytery Elder's report: The Session Clerk reported on the September meeting of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian. There was not a considerable amount of business, but one item, the provision of disabled access to St Giles' Cathedral, noted that this important work, given the Grade A category of this historic building, was going to cost in excess of £1M.

WORSHIP NOTES

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

Advent

The first Sunday of Advent is on 29 November, when we take time to reflect about the coming of Jesus into the world, and what this means to us today.

Communion Sunday

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be shared at 9.30am and 10.30am in the church on Sunday 6 December. 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.

HARVEST COLLECTION



The Harvest collection for the SE Edinburgh Foodbank, based at Southhouse Broadway, resulted in donations of 371kg, the highest total we have ever raised. In addition, over £1565 in financial donations was received, of which £150 came from the selling of fruit and vegetables from the produce display in the Church. The Foodbank was thrilled with the donations received – there

has been a notable uptake in demand for food parcels in recent months, and our donations of goods and money have helped in replenishing stocks, particularly vital at a time of year when heating and food costs are rising with further strains on household finances looming.

As ever, thanks are due to all those who contributed food and/or money, and also to those who set-up the produce displays in the Church and to the team who collected in the donations and then delivered all the crates, boxes and bags the following day. It is a great team effort, of which we should all be proud.

Although Harvest is our main focus for donating to the work of the Foodbank, donations can be made throughout the year. There is a large, white, plastic container, clearly labelled, beneath the pigeonholes in the Braid corridor into which non-perishable items (tins of soup, vegetables, fruit etc, cereal, tea, coffee, sweets) can be placed. Financial donations can be made online and the bank details are – payable to South East Edinburgh Foodbank, sort code 83-91-46 and the account number 73014363. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, please place the money in a sealed envelope and hand it to Fiona Stewart, who will be happy to answer any Foodbank related questions and to provide a Gift Aid form if required.

This year, the Foodbank will be decorating a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival, so we look forward to seeing you admiring our creative skills in December!

Fiona Stewart



GIFT SERVICE FOR THE EDINBURGH CLOTHING STORE: (CHARITY NO. SC039409)

By popular demand this year's Gift Service, on 15 November, will once again be for the children who are referred to The Edinburgh Clothing Store (ECS) In previous years the congregation has been extremely generous in the gifts they have given and also in the money they have donated to buy necessary items of clothing which are in short supply.

Over the past year, there has been a very significant increase in the number of children who have been referred for help. At the same time, there has been a notable drop in the number of good quality items which have been donated possibly because people are buying less new clothes and so many people are selling on-line their good quality items. The increase in the cost of living has hit everyone. We are having to buy much more to meet the increasing number who need our help. Warm winter clothing is desperately needed.

On the two Sundays prior to the 15th, i.e. 1st and 8th November, labels will be laid out on tables at the back of the church. Each label will name an item of clothing and the age of a boy or girl to whom the item will go.

If you would like to give a gift, there are three options available -

1. Take a label and buy the suggested gift. Bring the gift on Sunday 15th November before the 10.30a.m. service to the tables below the pulpit. **PLEASE DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS.**
2. If you cannot come on the 15th, please bring your gift on the 8th and put it in the Clothing Store box below the elders' pigeon holes.
3. If you prefer not to go shopping, cash or cheque Donations are also most welcome. Please make cheques payable to The Edinburgh Clothing Store and send them to 7 Greenbank Crescent. EH10 5TE. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, include a note stating that you wish to Donate £x to The Edinburgh Clothing Store, with your name, address and postcode, state that you are a U.K. taxpayer and sign your name.

Your donation will make a huge difference to a child who is living in poverty in our city. Thank you very much in anticipation.



KIRK KRAFTERS

As the evenings are drawing in and the weather can be a bit unpredictable the November meeting of the Krafters will be on Tuesday 24 November from **2-4pm** in the Cluny Hall. Note the change of time.

This group is open to the Community along with church members - cost £5.

Thank you to those who have knitted or crochet poppies for Remembrance along with support for Poppy Scotland. November's meeting might have a Christmas theme. There will be no meeting in December.

The group would love to have sewers joining us to give us a variety of crafts offered along with any other craft ideas.

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

THE EDINBURGH CLOTHING STORE COFFEE MORNING

The 14th annual Coffee Morning for The Edinburgh Clothing Store will take place on Saturday 21 November from 10.00a.m. - 12 noon in the Sanctuary of Morningside Parish Church. Cream Scones and Coffee will be served and there will be the usual variety of stalls with this year's "different" stall being a Costume Jewellery Stall.

Everyone is most welcome and tickets priced £7 for adults and £3 for children can be bought at the coffees after the 10.30a.m. service from Clothing Store helpers or at the door on the day.

Please come and support this most enjoyable fundraising event and meet with friends from across the city.

Let's make it the best Clothing Store Coffee Morning ever!

FLOWER LIST

The flowers for November have been donated and arranged as follows:

		Donated by	Arranged by
November	1	Ian Hastie	Irene Wilson
	8	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	Karen Keil
	15	Lawrence & Irene Hall	Marjory Watson
	22	Dora Cossar	Eleanor Watt
	29	Joan Burnet	Marjory Watson



The new flower list for 2027 is now available on the vestibule noticeboard. If you would like to supply flowers one Sunday, please put your name and phone number against your chosen date. The cost remains at £45. Cheques should be made payable to 'Morningside Parish Church Flower Fund' or payment can be made by bank transfer if preferred. If you are a UK taxpayer and can give by Gift Aid, please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes or advise me if you are registered with the Gift Aid Convener. Monies can be given to a member of the Committee, put in the Flower Committee pigeon hole or sent to the church office clearly marked for the Flower Fund. Please contact me direct on 0131 449 2866; e-mail: irene_a_wilson@btinternet.com if you require details to make a bank transfer.

Do you have a talent for, or would like to try your hand at, flower arranging? We would be delighted to welcome new members to join our team. Men are also most welcome - you can serve coffee so I'm sure you could arrange flowers too. Even if you are only available for a few weeks a year it would help.

If you would like to join us, or want to come along and see what it entails, please come and speak to myself or any other members of the Flower Committee on a Sunday morning. Training and guidance can be given if required

Irene Wilson, Convener - Flower Committee



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

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

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

November: 18th **December:** 16th (Christmas party)

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.

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

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

FROM OUR WAR MEMORIAL

We see the names on our war memorials on a regular basis, but to most if not all of us, they are just names. As Remembrance Day comes round again, here are a few details about the stories behind some of the names from one of the World War II memorials.

Sergeant **Douglas Norrie Cox** died aged 25 on 8 February 1945 serving with 1st Lothians and Border Horse, Royal Armoured Corps and is buried in Mook War Cemetery in the Netherlands. The son of Thomas Francis and Mary Callander Cox of Edinburgh, he had a sister Gladys, and brothers Tom and James. As a lance corporal in the Royal Armoured Corps (Yeomanry), he was awarded the Military Medal on 20 December 1940.

His citation reads: 'At Oisement [northern France] on June 6th Trooper Cox was the driver of a motor cycle combination. He conveyed his Squadron Leader under shell fire when visiting his troops, and in the course of these journeys received a wound in the leg. Later when the Squadron had been ordered to withdraw, he carried a message, despite his wound, to one troop through heavy machine gun and shell fire and, as a result, the troop were able to effect a withdrawal intact. Had the message not got through, the troop undoubtedly would have been cut off.'

Pilot officer **Andrew Allison Law** served in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. The son of Thomas and Mary Marshall Allison Law of 9 St Ronan's Terrace, he was born in 1916 and educated at George Watson's College. In 1934 he went to work for National Bank of Scotland [now part of NatWest Group].

When war broke out in September 1939, Andrew was keen to join the Royal Air Force and become a pilot. He made his first attempt at joining up on Saturday 2 September, the day before Britain declared war, but the RAF Recruitment Office, where he went on his way home from work, told him they were not taking names until war had definitely started. The declaration of war was made just before lunchtime the next day. Andrew went straight to the recruiting office, but was again told they were taking no names. On Monday and Tuesday he went to Central Hall, which had been converted into a recruitment centre for army, air force and navy, but after queuing for several hours he learned that they were only accepting riggers and fitters.

The next day, he was determined to make some progress. He told his colleagues he might be late to work, and went very early to Central Hall, before it opened for the day. Instead of queuing at the main entrance, he went to the side, where he knew the recruiters used a separate entrance. He waited there, and managed to catch the attention of a senior recruiter on his way into the centre who, on hearing he wanted to join the RAF, took him inside and fast-tracked his application. He finished all the medicals and interviews just after noon, and was told to report back at 3.30. In the next few hours he hurried around saying his goodbyes – to his mother, who had not known he was trying to join up, and to his colleagues at the bank. Then he reported back to the recruiting office, and by 5pm was on a train to an RAF receiving centre in Cheshire.

He stayed there for the next six weeks. Throughout his training and initial postings he stayed in touch with his colleagues at the bank, visiting them whenever he was on leave in Edinburgh and receiving parcels of cigarettes and chocolate from them while he was away.



Andrew Law

At last Andrew was sent to flight training school at RAF Kinloss, and completed his training in December 1940. The same month, he became engaged to his girlfriend from home, Dorothea.

Pilot Officer Law began operational flights in January 1941. In April, returning from a bombing mission to Berlin, his plane was hit by enemy flak over Hamburg. He kept the plane flying until it was over the North Sea, and then was forced to ditch onto the water. The five-man crew successfully evacuated into a dinghy. They drifted for two days and nights. On the third day, a coastal command plane spotted them, dropped supplies and raised the alarm. Towards evening they were rescued. Andrew was taken to hospital with frostbite, but soon recovered and returned to active duty.

On the night of 3-4 September 1941 he and his crew took off from RAF Linton-on-Ouse on a mission against enemy shipping in the port of Brest, but just over an hour later were ordered to turn back and divert to another RAF base, due to dense fog. In attempting to land there in foggy conditions the plane crashed into trees, killing all but one of the crew, including Pilot Officer Law. He was 24 years old, and is commemorated on the Second World War memorial of National Bank of Scotland, which today stands in the bank's office at Gogarburn, Edinburgh, as well as on the war memorial at George Watson's College. He is buried in Morningside Cemetery.

Flight lieutenant **Donald S Margach** was in the RAF volunteer reserve and served with 582 Squadron of the Pathfinders. The Path Finder Force was a highly specialised elite group which, from 1942 until 1945, led the bombing operations against Nazi Germany. Only the best crews were offered the chance of becoming Pathfinders and all PFF aircrew were volunteers. 582 was a Bomber Squadron formed on 1 April 1944 at Little Staughton, Bedfordshire.

The son of William and Janet Margach and husband of Greta Margach of Blackhall Edinburgh, he died on 29 July 1944 at the age of 32 having failed to return from a bombing raid on Stuttgart. He is buried in Durnbach War Cemetery, about 45km south of Munich.

In April 1943 when flying with 106 squadron, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the third-level military decoration which is awarded for 'an act or acts of valour, courage or devotion to duty whilst flying in active operations against the enemy'



Donald Margach with his wife Greta and daughter Alison



Flying officer **James Hamish Campbell McIlwrick**, a pilot in the RAF Volunteer Reserve, in 295 squadron, died 19 Feb 1943 at the age of 28 and is buried at Saumur, on the Loire. He was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth McIlwrick of 9 Comiston Terrace, and was part of a crew making a raid on the Distré electricity transformer in northern France on the night of 19/20 February 1943. The squadron was based at Netheravon and was one of three squadrons training to deliver paratroops and gliders for airborne operations. The main purpose of the operation was to provide crews with experience in precision navigation over enemy territory and identifying small, unlit, targets at night. The plane was hit and failed to return to base.

Sergeant **Ian McLachlan** served with the RAF and died on active service with 150 Squadron on 9 November 1942 aged 21. He was born at Hinckley, Leicestershire on 23 August 1921, the son of Dr John Morham McLachlan MD and Anne Logie (nee Robertson) McLachlan of 36 Plewlands Gardens, Edinburgh. Educated at George Watson's College from 1931 to 1939, he was a member of the Officer Training Corps there and gained the bronze medal for life saving. He went on to

Edinburgh University for one term before enlisting in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in July 1940. He was promoted to Sergeant in July 1942 and posted to Bomber Command.

On the night of the 9th/10th of November 1942, Bomber Command dispatched 183 planes for an operation on Hamburg. Weather conditions were poor and although 156 of the crews reported that they had dropped their bombs, damage was light with most of the bombs dropping in the River Elbe or in open country. Ian McLachlan and his crew took off from RAF Kirmington at 5.30pm on 9 November 1942 in Wellington Mk III X3310 JN-A. On its return from the target the aircraft was attacked and shot down by an enemy night fighter. It crashed and exploded near Bornwird Raard, some five kilometres to the west of Dukkum, Friesland at 11pm, killing the entire crew.

(Much of the information re Ian McLachlan and Andrew Law from John Hamblin's research, George Watson's College website <https://www.gwc.org.uk/about-us/heritage/watsons-war-records> Some information re Ian McLachlan also from NatWest Group Remembers. Information and images re Donald Margach courtesy of the RAF Pathfinders Archive, <https://rafpathfinders.com/>)



Wg Cdr Guy Gibson far left; Flt Lt Donald Margach far right, with 106 squadron

SPEAKER SUPPER – 27 November

On Friday 27 November, 7.30pm in the Braid Hall, our speaker will be Gillian Field, who will talk about the Kindertransport. She is the daughter of Holocaust survivors Henry and Ingrid Wuga who were born in Germany in 1924. Being Jewish meant that they were subjected to antisemitism under the Nazi regime. They escaped Nazi Germany aged 15 and fled to Glasgow in 1939 as part of the rescue operation, just before the outbreak World War II. Gillian speaks in schools across the country talking about her parents' Holocaust experience and stressing that hatred should never prevail.

Tickets: Adults £30, children £15. This includes a two-course meal and refreshments will be available to purchase from the bar on the evening. Please let us know about any dietary requirements you may have when purchasing your ticket. All funds raised will go to the Edinburgh Clothing Store (SCO39409), The David Nott Foundation (1162537) and Morningside Parish Church (SCO34396). The evening is organised by the Outreach Committee.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year's Christmas Tree Festival will open on Friday 11 December at 4pm. We hope to have a piper present, and the Morningside Youth Choir at their first event in our Church. The Festival runs until Sunday 20 December, and is kindly sponsored once more by William Purves, Funeral Directors.

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



MORNINGSIDE HOPE CONCERT SEPTEMBER 2026

An appreciative audience of around 200 people heard performances by two very accomplished musicians. Jane Rimer played Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 in two halves, separated by Bach's Fantasia in G minor, played on the organ by Martyn Strachan. Jane is a medical consultant geriatrician who graduated with distinction from the Royal Academy of Music – and it showed! Like a professional soloist, she played the entire unaccompanied piece, which lasts for over 20 minutes, without music, having

memorised the complex sequence of thousands of notes by heart. Jane told us that the original manuscript was lost and the piece was transcribed by Bach's wife, Anna Magdalena, though there are gaps and inconsistencies and different soloists come up with different interpretations. All six suites follow the same pattern of a Prelude followed by five dances. The No. 1 Prelude is probably Bach's most popular cello piece – with its series of rapid, flowing arpeggios. It was followed by the Allemande, graceful and moderately fast and then the Courante, much faster with emphatic bursts of chords.

Martyn Strachan, lately the organist at the Reid Memorial Church, then played Bach's impressive Fantasia in G major, in a French style, hence *Piece de l'Orgue*. The first part was a prelude, ranging up and down the keyboards, followed by a slower section with massive chords and then a chromatic recapitulation of the first part - powerful, complex and rhythmic.

Jane returned to play the second half of the No. 1 suite with its three dances – a Sarabande with a slow opening and a calm series of chords, two Minuets featuring an impression of a stately, elegant dance and ending with a Gigue with a faster sequence of melodious phrases. After protracted applause she came back to give us an encore and played the Londonderry Air, beautifully arranged for the cello. Over £1,000 was donated to support Morningside Hope.



We very much hope you will be able to join us at our next concert on Saturday 28th November at 2pm when we are delighted to be welcoming back The Rock Choir.

Barry Hughes

ROLL CHANGES

Please remember in your prayers:-

- Patricia Jackson, who died on 20 September 2026
- Louise Marshall, who died on 11 October 2026



DECEMBER MAGAZINE

Material for the December issue of the magazine should be with the editor, Alison Riddell, by **Friday 13 November** and it will be available by Sunday 29 November. Contributions should be emailed to editor@morningsideparishchurch.org.uk or put in her pigeonhole at the church.

The Minister

We're going to need the minister
to help this heavy body into the ground.

But he won't dig the hole;
others who are stronger and weaker will have
to do that.

And he won't wipe his nose and his eyes;
others who are weaker and stronger will have
to do that.

And he won't bake cakes or take care of the
kids —
women's work. Anyway,
what would they do at a time like this
if they didn't do that?

No, we'll get the minister to come
and take care of the words.
He doesn't have to make them up,
he doesn't have to say them well,

Anne Stevenson

he doesn't have to like them
so long as they agree to obey him.
We have to have the minister
so the words will know
where to go.

Imagine them circling and
circling
the confusing cemetery.
Imagine them roving the
earth
without anywhere to rest.



(From The Collected Poems 1955-1995,
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Printed with permission from Bloodaxe Books)

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