



Link *The*
Magazine of

Morningside United Church



April 2023

Dear Friends,

When we arrive at Holy Week there can be a great temptation to go from the Hosannas of Palm Sunday straight to the Alleluias of Easter Sunday. Yet there is a week of holiness in between that is packed with many significant events as Jesus navigates his way to the cross.

This week is so important that it is what the four Gospels all focus on with a third of their total content devoted to just a few days. A third of Matthew, a third of Mark, a quarter of Luke and almost half of John provide an extensive passion narrative covering the last week of Jesus' life.

Holy Week and all it contains is of course not an easy read and therefore, just as we encountered at the beginning of Lent there is a temptation, being that of avoidance. However, this can be costly as no matter how hard the accounts of Holy Week are to process, they are necessary to fully appreciate the joy of Easter and what a vacant tomb actually means.

This does not make an understanding of the resurrection any easier or shine light on its mystery, but it does show us what the power and presence of God's grace can do; transforming despair to hope and creating the positive from the negative. The event of Easter Sunday and all that follows of course make no logical sense. This is because we always default to thinking in a very practical way shaped by the rules of this world, something the disciples and the close followers of Jesus also frequently did and therefore struggled or simply didn't get what Jesus was saying and doing.

As Easter 2023 arrives we are all invited to embrace the joy and positivity of new life that is revealed in the Risen Christ. This is worth celebrating as no matter where you with whatever on your mind, you have been gifted the promise of hope thanks to all Jesus endured over the course of that important Holy Week.

Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."

Matthew 28:5-7 (NLT)

As we continue to navigate our ministerial vacancy and discern the direction God is calling Morningside United, I wonder how this good news message of hope can inspire us as we celebrate the joy of Easter together?

Grace and Peace,

The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)

A Poem for Spring

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet,
For song of bird, and hum of bee,
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky,
For pleasant shade of branches high,
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

Musings from Mary Taylor, Pastoral Assistant, MUC

At the residential Synod of Scotland this year David Scott led a very entertaining social evening. One of quizzes was linked to remembering hymn tunes. Just now I am reflecting on the tune and words of hymn –

Holy, holy, holy
Holy Island

Tomorrow I am going to visit Marygate Retreat, Holy Island. This island is a really special place, and last October this retreat house became one of the recent international partners of the Community of the Cross of Nails partners, linked to Coventry Cathedral with its message of reconciliation.

I was privileged to be one of the pilgrims carrying this particular Cross of Nails, which was blessed in Coventry, and then crossed the sands to Marygate Retreat House for a special presentation service.

Next week as Holy Week progresses pilgrims carrying crosses from all over the country will cross the sands barefoot following the pilgrims' path as pilgrims have done for hundreds of years.

Holy, Holy, holy
Holy Land

Mel Campbell was the very efficient, enthusiastic Synod Clerk of Northern Synod. Now she has left this job and is training with the Anglican church. Part of her training is that she will be in the Holy Land in Holy Week and is hoping to be in Jerusalem on Easter Day.

Holy, holy, holy
Holy Week at Holy Corner

Christ Church has extended a warm welcome and a kind invitation to Morningside United Church to join for services during Holy Week.

Thursday 6 April, Maundy Thursday - 7.30 pm Service includes a Eucharist with foot washing.

Friday 7 April, Good Friday - details of times of services available in Christ Church and MUC.

Saturday 8 April, Holy Saturday - 8pm - Easter Vigil which will include a lighting of the new fire of Easter on the street in front of Christ Church where the new Easter candles will be blessed. This service includes the Renewal of Baptismal promises and the first Eucharist of Easter.

Sunday 9 April, EASTER DAY - 11am Morningside United Church Worship will be led by the Synod of Scotland Moderator, Rev. Paul Whittle.

I hope you have a really special Holy Week and Easter full of joy and peace however and wherever you spend it.

Lunchtime Concerts

Edinburgh Napier University will be holding their final lunchtime concert later this month. So many people have enjoyed these concerts. It starts at 1.15pm on Wednesday 26 April.

Please come along and enjoy the music.

Holy Corner Booksale

Thank you to everyone for your donations of books. We have received so many. This year's Booksale will definitely be worth coming along to and find some wonderful new books to read.


It is taking place in the Main Hall, which you can enter from Bruntsfield Place, on:

Saturday 13 May 10am – 5pm

Sunday 14 May 1pm – 5pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

David Donald



The poster features a large blue thought bubble containing the text 'Holy Corner Booksale' in red. To the right, a list of book categories is displayed in various colors: SCOTTISH, COLLECTIBLE BOOKS, ART, FICTION, CHILDREN'S, HISTORY, and AND OTHERS. Below the thought bubble is a cartoon illustration of a ginger cat sitting on a stack of colorful books. The dates 'Saturday 13 May 10 – 5' and 'Sunday 14 May 1 – 5' are printed in bold black text. At the bottom right is the Christian Aid logo, which consists of a red arrow pointing right with the words 'christian aid' in white. The text 'Morningside United Church, Holy Corner, EH10 4DJ. In Main Hall - enter from Bruntsfield Place' and 'In aid of Christian Aid: Charity No. SC039150' is printed at the bottom of the poster.

**Holy Corner
Booksale**

SCOTTISH
COLLECTIBLE BOOKS
ART
FICTION
CHILDREN'S
HISTORY
AND OTHERS

**Saturday 13 May 10 – 5
Sunday 14 May 1 – 5**

**christian
aid**

Morningside United Church, Holy Corner, EH10 4DJ. In Main Hall - enter from Bruntsfield Place
In aid of Christian Aid: Charity No. SC039150

2023 Lent Collect

This year's Lent collection is for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal, via Christian Aid as part of DEC. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation, or are writing a cheque, please use the available Christian Aid Envelopes, fill in the details on the envelope and then put the envelope in the bucket. For cash donations please put in the bucket directly and it will be paid out to Christian Aid. You can also make electronic payment to MUC bank account, and it will be transferred (80-02-85 Acct no 00551871).

Fairwell to a Friend



Heartfelt thanks to Max Allan from all at Morningside United Church for his faithful presence and all the hours of service he has given to the members and adherents of this church over many years. One of the ways he cared for this congregation was to edit this Link for many years.

We wish Max and Sandra, his wife well as they prepare to move because of Max's ill health to stay nearer Maxie, their son in Newcastle. A fuller article will be in next month's edition of the Link.

2022 Donations

Thanks to everyone's generosity we managed to raise an incredible amount through our Lent collections, Advent collections and of course, our coffee mornings.

The 2021 Advent collection (The timing of the Advent collection means it is not usually paid out until the next accounting year).

Rev Annie Kapinda (Malawi) - £1,350

Refugee Survival Trust - £1,335

The 2022 Lent collection was distributed as follows, in addition to the midyear coffee mornings:

DEC Ukraine Appeal - £1,213

Church of Scotland Ukraine Appeal - £1,420

Salvation Army Gorgie Foodbank - £134 was raised from the coffee mornings held at the end of 2022.

The 2022 Advent collection of £945.00 went to the Salvation Army Gorgie Foodbank and will show up in 2023 accounts.

This year's Lent collection is for Christian Aid's Emergency Appeal for the Turkey / Syria Earthquake – a little out of the news now, but an ongoing situation leaving many in distress.

Thank you so much for your support and generosity.

Reading and Flower Rota for April

Readers:

Sunday 2 April	David Donald
Sunday 9 April (Easter)	Maggie McKenzie
Sunday 16 April	Keith Wilson
Sunday 23 April	Hamish McKenzie
Sunday 30 April	Elizabeth MacGregor

Flowers:

Sunday 2 April	Elizabeth MacGregor
Sunday 9 April	Janet Wightman
Sunday 16 April	Jennifer Gruber
Sunday 23 April	Maggie McKenzie
Sunday 30 April	Judy Wagner

Many thanks to all the people who have volunteered to do the Readings for our services and, those who have provided the beautiful flowers that we are able to have around the Church.

If you wish to put flowers in the Church but cannot do so yourself, please ask someone else, including me, if he or she could do flowers for you, in whatever way. If you wish to give money to a flower fund, please give to me or Lesley Donald.

Many thanks

Maggie McKenzie
261 4908

Church Life at MUC – An Update

Coffee Mornings – Our fortnightly coffee mornings continue in the Small Hall from 10.30 am - noon. Last month we were delighted to welcome back the residents, and staff, from Chamberlain Care Home after three years away due to Covid restrictions.

Donations from the coffee morning continue to support the Salvation Army foodbank in Gorgie.

All are welcome for tea/ coffee/home baking and plenty of chat.

Our next dates for you to join us are 6 April and 20 April.

Yvonne Burnett

Stamps - Please bring used postage stamps to church. They will be put to good use by the Church of Scotland.

Join the Choir - If you enjoy singing, please give our choir at Morningside United a try! Our repertoire is a wide variety of music, which we sing at the Sunday Morning Service once a month.

Singers of all ages are very welcome.

We meet for our weekly practice on Wednesdays at 5.30pm for 45mins. For more information, please speak to our Director of Music Brigitte Harris.

Edinburgh Napier Chamber Choir – On Friday 21 April, please come along to listen to the

The Link Magazine is available on our website to view, and in Church. If you would prefer to have it emailed to you, please email churchoffice.muc@gmail.com.

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