



**Link**

*The  
Magazine of*

**Morningside United Church**



**December 2024**

## Dear Friends,

We learnt with great sadness of the unexpected death of Sarah Moore's brother and send deep sympathy to her and her family at this time.

Worship in Morningside United Church continues throughout Advent as do Prayers for Peace on Wednesdays, which all are welcome to join.

Amongst my Advent reading just now is: Do Not Be Afraid by Rachel Mann –“the joy of waiting in a time of fear”.

It may seem unlikely when you're stuck on a train, or nervously awaiting hospital treatment, or simply fearful of an uncertain future that there is treasure to be found in the waiting. Yet the Psalmist says,

“I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.”

Rachel Mann's meditations tell stories of God waiting with us when we're in fear or distress, of coming - bidden or unbidden – to relieve our loneliness, of disconcerting us and surprising us with joy. Most of all they remind us that Jesus Christ comes into the world as the one on whom we adoringly, called to wait.

With best wishes to you for an Advent and Christmas full of joy and peace,

Mary Taylor

## Musings From Mary Taylor, Pastoral Assistant, MUC

A Dementia Day was organised by the newly formed Mission committee of the Synod. This was held in Livingston United Parish Church and was a successful and enjoyable day during which we learnt more about dementia and spirituality linked to dementia.

Thanks to zoom there was valuable input from Suzanne McDonald, a lively and enthusiastic speaker from America.

## Beatitudes of Friends of the Aged

Blessed are they who make it known  
I am loved, respected and not alone

Blessed are they who understand  
My faltering step and palsied hand

Blessed are they who know my ears today  
Must strain to catch the things they say

Blessed are they who seem to know  
That my eyes are dim and my thoughts are slow

Blessed are they who look away  
When coffee was spilled on the table today

Blessed are they who with a cheery smile  
Stop and chat a little while

Blessed are they who never say  
“You told that story twice today”

Blessed are they who know the ways  
To bring back memories of yesterdays

Blessed are they who know I’m at a loss  
To find the strength to carry my cross

Blessed are they who ease the days  
On my journey home in loving ways

### Eric Liddell 100

On Friday 1 November the Eric Liddell Awards Dinner was held in George Watson’s College in the presence of the Princess Royal and Patricia Russell, Eric Liddell’s oldest daughter. It was chaired by Sally Magnusson. This was the last big occasion with regards to Eric Liddell 100 and five of us from Morningside United Church attended the memorable and enjoyable dinner. There was a silent auction.

You'll be pleased to know that The Princess Royal is going to continue as patron of the Eric Liddell Community.

## Eric Liddell peace garden

The peace gardening team has expanded, and we are delighted that the milder autumn weather allowed us to plant bulbs, keep the leaves reasonably tidy, appreciate signs of continual growth and even have several picnics there after the Wednesday prayers for peace.

We enjoy welcoming visitors and it has been a great joy to see Patricia Russell and Sue Caton again in the peace garden. Many thanks to Sue Caton, Eric Liddell's niece, for generously donating the new bird bath which is now attractively situated in the middle of the Eric Liddell peace garden.

Thanks too to Alina Andras from the Romanian Orthodox Church for planting the daffodil bulbs which are now, thanks to her team, at the front of Morningside United Church beside the notice boards.

### **The Winter Tree**

“Forget the former things,  
Do not dwell on the past  
See, I am doing a new thing  
Now it springs up ;  
Do you not perceive it? “

*Isaiah 43: 19-20*

John O'Donohue has written a poem called “The Winter Tree” which reminds us that:

“We wait for new life, but we do not wait alone.  
And while we wait, we struggle to accept winter as a necessary companion, an inner season calling us to be more than we now are....”

## Bethlehem Carol Sheet is 70

The Bethlehem Carol Sheet celebrates its 70th birthday this Christmas. The 1954 carol sheet was produced by Bob Clothier, Secretary of the BibleLands Missions Aid Society and contained 21 carols.



Embrace the Middle East continues to produce carol sheets. You can find these at: [www.embraceme.org](http://www.embraceme.org)

Embrace the Middle East says “We work with Christians in Egypt, Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Lebanon and Syria supporting their local health, education and community projects, which bring vital services to those at risk of marginalisation, exclusion and injustice.

Where there is a need - for refuge, a home, healthcare, education, justice and human rights - we, with our partners respond.”

The 2024 carol sheet contains 3 carols not previously included;

- Holy Night
- See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw, and
- The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came.

## Reading and Flower Rota for December

	<b>Readers:</b>	<b>Flowers:</b>
1 December	Keith Wilson	Maggie McKenzie
8 December	Maggie McKenzie	Christmas Tree
15 December	Elizabeth MacGregor	Christmas Tree
22 December	David Donald	Christmas Tree
29 December	Pam Brindley	Christmas Tree

## Advent Collection

Our advent collection this year is to add to the food and cash donations from coffee mornings we are already giving to the Gorgie Salvation Army foodbank. Cash in the bucket in the church, cheque in the bucket or in the post or electronic payments to the church account are all welcome. Any cheques should be payable to MUC. If posting and you want to make clear the cheque is for this rather than general church funds, please put a note on the back of the cheque.

Electronic payments are to Morningside United Church  
Sort 80-02-85 Account 00551871. Please add a reference Advent.

If you already have a Gift Aid declaration, gift aid will be claimed on your advent donation. Cheque or electronic are easily identified. For cash, please put in the bucket with an envelope with your name.

Thank you for your support and generosity as always.

## Timetable for Ministers December /early January

1 December	Rev Mary Taylor
8 December	Rev Mary Taylor
15 December	Rev David Scott
22 December	Eilidh Young
29 December	Rev Mary Taylor (Communion)
5 January	Rev Mary Taylor
12 January	Rev David Coleman

## Morningside United Church choir

Our friendly choir rehearses every Wednesday in term time from 5.40pm for an hour and sings about once a month for a Sunday morning service. Our repertoire covers a wide variety of styles.

Everyone is welcome!

For more information, please contact Director of Music Brigitte Harris.



## Church Life at MUC – An Update

**Coffee Mornings** - Our fortnightly coffee mornings this month will be on Thursday 5 December and Thursday 19 December in the Small Hall at 10.30 am. All are welcome. Coffee mornings will resume again on Thursday 9 January 2025.

**Prayers for Peace** The Prayers for Peace project is in partnership with Napier University and Christ Church. This service will take place weekly on Wednesdays from 2 October to 18 December in Morningside United Church at 12.30pm in front of the memorial book and the Cross of Nails, lasting approximately 20 minutes. It will be led by Mary Taylor, Ryan Bennett from Christ Church, and anyone else from Morningside United Church, Christ Church or Napier who would like to be involved.

**Afternoon Communion** - There will be an afternoon communion on Tuesday 10 December at 2.30 pm. Refreshments will follow.

This service is intended for those who may find it difficult to attend morning worship on a Sunday, but of course all are welcome. We hope residents from Chamberlain Care Home will join us.

## Christmas events at MUC - our own & others

### Sunday 1 December 5 pm

An event from our Ukrainian friends – quickly slotted in Scottish date as part of a UK tour by an acclaimed Ukrainian artist, with funds going to Ukrainian charities - Christmas music and sand art animation. You can see a sample of the performance at the link below.

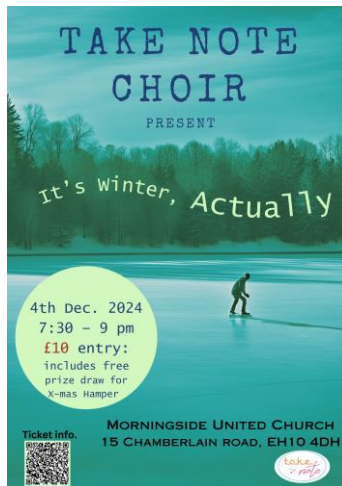
[https://youtu.be/tgQ4gudyK6A?si=3AIWcckBl\\_Y49ZnV](https://youtu.be/tgQ4gudyK6A?si=3AIWcckBl_Y49ZnV)



## Wednesday 4 December

The church is open from 5 pm as part of the Bruntsfield and Morningside Christmas Lights and shopping evening. We have seasonal music at the start, then carols for all from 5:45pm to 6:30 pm. The lights at the Eric Liddell Centre will be switched on at 6pm.

This will be followed by a concert in the church at 7:30 pm by Take Note Choir.



## Sunday 8 December 4 pm

Scottish Polish Cultural Association

Christmas Carols and Polish Folk Dances performed by Parzenica



Tickets £5 (£3 for under 16) including mulled wine and mince pies



**Sunday 15 December 11am**  
**Brass Tracks at Morningside United Church**

Advent worship led by Rev. David Scott with carols and festive music. We look forward to welcoming and sharing this Advent worship and special occasion with Saughtonhall United Reformed Church and Duke Street United Reformed Church.



**Thursday 19 December 7:30 pm**

We are glad to welcome back Octavoce for their popular Christmas Concert at MUC

***A Candlelit  
Christmas Concert  
with Octavoce***

*Award-winning a cappella  
vocal ensemble sings Christmas  
classics from Silent Night to  
Fairytale of New York...  
Mulled wine provided!*

18 Dec, 7:30pm  
St Vincent's Chapel, Edinburgh  
19 Dec, 7:30pm  
Morningside United Church,  
Edinburgh  
20 Dec, 7:30pm  
St Andrew's Church, Fortrose

Tickets (£14/£12):  
[www.octavoce.org.uk  
/concerts](http://www.octavoce.org.uk/concerts)

# Christmas Services Timetable

## Augustine United Church

Sunday 22 December 1pm -1.40pm

Service of the longest night - especially for people who have been recently bereaved

**Christmas Eve** - There will be a Christmas Eve service on Tuesday 24 December (Christmas Eve) in Morningside United Church at 5pm. It will be led by Rev Mary Taylor and Brigitte Harris, with Elinor Evans on Harp.

## Christmas Day

Wednesday 25 December

There will no service on Christmas Day in Morningside United Church this year.

At 10am, Christ Church, Holy Corner warmly invite folk from Morningside United Church to join them for a short service on Christmas Day.

## Sunday 29 December

At 11am Morningside United Church warmly welcomes our ecumenical neighbours from Christ Church to worship and fellowship. This church service will include the monthly sacrament of Holy Communion.

## A New Venture for January....

**SOUTHSIDE FAITH CARE**  A partnership between Southside Faith Care & Tap into IT

**Tap into IT**  
where you are  
connecting people, encouraging community



# DIGITAL ADVICE & SUPPORT

### FREE ADVICE & HELP WITH YOUR MOBILE PHONE, TABLET OR LAPTOP

**Don't worry if you're a complete beginner, you'll get friendly and patient help and a cuppa!**

**Get in touch:**  
dan@southsidefaithcare.org.uk  
07587014948

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info@tapintoit.org.uk  
07762 982509

**Where?**  
Morningside United Church,  
15 Chamberlain Rd,  
Edinburgh EH10 4DH

**When?**  
Thursdays,  
1.30-3.30pm  
23rd January for 5 weeks

This has been organised via Southside Faith Care. There are current sessions finishing in December in the Eric Liddell Community and Marchmont St Giles.

Tap into IT provides an inclusive, locally accessible service and ongoing support to enable older people to tap into the benefits of the internet and technology, with services are aimed in particular at older people including those with disabilities and health problems in Edinburgh.

# Church Diary for December

Sunday 1 Dec	11am Worship led by Rev Mary Taylor
Wednesday 4 Dec	12pm-12.50pm Prayers for Peace with ChristChurch Morningside 5pm Bruntsfield Christmas Night 5.30pm-6.30pm MUC Choir Christmas Concert
Thursday 5 Dec	10.30am Thursday coffee morning in Small Hall
Sunday 8 Dec	11am Worship led by Rev Mary Taylor
Tuesday 10 Dec	2.30pm Afternoon communion
Wednesday 11 Dec	12.30pm-12.50pm Prayers for Peace with ChristChurch Morningside and Napier 5.30pm-6.30pm Choir practice in the Small Hall
Sunday 15 Dec	11am Worship led by Rev David Scott + Brass Tracks
Wednesday 18 Dec	12.30pm-12.50pm Prayers for Peace with ChristChurch Morningside and Napier
Thursday 19 Dec	10.30am Thursday coffee morning in Small Hall
Sunday 22 Dec	11am Worship led by Eilidh Young
Tuesday 24 Dec	5pm Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday 25 Dec	10am Christmas Day Service at Christchurch
Sunday 29 Dec	11am Worship led by Rev Mary Taylor

cover photograph by Sarah McKernan

To get in contact, please email: [churchoffice.muc@gmail.com](mailto:churchoffice.muc@gmail.com)  
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