



**Link** *The*  
*Magazine of*  
**Morningside United Church**



**January 2023**

## Dear Friends, Happy New Year

Many thanks for the warm welcome you have extended to me as I start this “new post” in Morningside United Church and around Holy Corner.

**Welcome**    **Willkommen** (German)    **laskavo prosymo** (Ukrainian)  
**bine ati venit** (Romanian)

It has been a great joy to be around Morningside during Advent, Christmas, New Year and Epiphany.

In Morningside United Church we have had live music from the restored organ, piano, brass instruments, harp, violoncello and heard lovely choirs mainly thanks to Brigitte Harris, church organist and Octavoce.

We welcomed Christ Church to Morningside United Church on New Year’s Day for a communion service and were invited to join their services on Christmas Day and Epiphany.

Thank you for the welcome from Chamberlain Road Nursing home and the Elms, where despite illness in these places, I have been privileged to lead worship and start to get to know staff and residents. Thank you too to Morlich House where I am on the rota to lead worship in February and hope to spend more time there soon.

2023 is a time of uncertainty on so many levels but let us look forward in faith.

*From The United Reformed Church Prayer Handbook 2023 - “Cities of Sanctuary”*

### **How to build a city** – Susan McCoan (adapted)

First dream of living,  
Of life where all creation can flourish.....  
Let the gates be open for all to come and go in peace.  
Cherish your city as it grows,  
And let your dreams grow with it.  
For you are building a holy city,  
A city of sanctuary,  
A city of God.

*Mary Taylor*

I am here as your pastoral assistant and if needed here are my contact details ***m.taylor\_1@btinternet.com***    phone number ***01896 756990***

## Camouflage Nets update

In our September issue of Link magazine, we had an appeal for fabric to help make camouflage nets to send to Ukraine. Over the past six months or so, people have been coming together to make the nets. Already, 18 nets (5m x 6m) have been made. To explain the amount of work that goes into making each one, we have asked Hanna who helped set up this group.

It can take anything between 4-8 hours to make a camouflage net (each 5m x 6m: 30 sq m). But before that we need some cloth, if required we dye the material, buy some net base, organize people and, of course, shop for tea and cookies.



Camouflage nets are used for green corridors: to exchange people released from captivity, let civilians leave dangerous areas, to hide hospitals, cars and equipment from the enemy, and to prevent their drones targeting them.

The nets are really useful in Ukraine but they also look like pieces of art similar to tapestries.

Every Friday and Saturday, from 4-8 pm, about 14-25 people come to work on the netting in one of the upstairs rooms.

This kind of volunteering is like art therapy. People talk and laugh whilst netting. There is a genuine feeling of community with folk from all around both Ukraine and the UK, of different ages and background. Elizabeth, one of our local volunteers, often bakes delicious flapjacks and cookies for us to enjoy during our breaks. Sometimes relocated Ukrainians in the UK might feel guilty because they think they are not helping Ukraine enough, so netting helps them to make their contribution in assisting their country.

There are many benefits to the work that is being done: there is the eco side of it, in that we use old clothes and bedding to make the nets. But there is also the community aspect, which is so important. People can network and help each other, whether it's to find accommodation, work, or just to be there for one another.

Netting is about creativity and reaching one's potential, as volunteers have to be imaginative to make the proper nets. Some people have also learnt how to make beautiful bracelets to send to Ukraine.

Whilst we are making nets, we sing Ukrainian and Scottish songs together and it unites us as a community. It also helps us learn about each other's cultures and traditions.

We also collect a Food bank and Clothes bank for those in need and we send some items to Ukraine.



Our society also collaborates with some churches and charities, e.g., Morningside United Church where we are doing the netting now, Sunflower Scotland Charity, Ukrainian Catholic Church and Father Vasyl Kren, St Cuthberts Church, the Scottish Baby Box Appeal Charity and Martin Pearce, Scottish Army cadets, AUGB Ukrainian Community Club and others.

So, making nets is meaningful and purposeful for Ukrainians and other nationalities who support Ukraine. They connect for the sake of one common goal. Volunteers are kind to each other; they support and help Ukraine and their friends as much as they can. People come to do the netting again and again, enjoying their time together in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere. Netting also helps Ukrainian relocated people integrate into the British society quicker.

We hope our society can unite more relocated Ukrainians in Scotland, British people and all the other nationalities who are living here. If you would like to get involved, please come along, you would be so welcome, or if you have materials that you can pass along, that would also be appreciated. You can find out more about our group from the links below. We promote camouflage netting in some rather big Telegram groups where there are from 100 to 3400 Ukrainians and other nationalities living in Scotland. They come to help netting from different places in Scotland. Moreover, we also have Facebook and Instagram pages and often ask Sunflower Sisters charity organization to promote our group on their page in Facebook and it helps a lot.

Here is a link for our Edinburgh spiders Group on Telegram:

**<https://t.me/+0hOOIYm7pB01NmQy>**

Here is a link for our Edinburgh nets for Ukraine Group on FB:

**<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Cause/Edinburgh-nets-for-Ukraine-100551379486899/>**

Here is a link for our Edinburgh nets for Ukraine Group on Instagram:

**[https://www.instagram.com/edi\\_nets\\_ua/](https://www.instagram.com/edi_nets_ua/)**

Here is an article about us:

**<https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/news/edinburgh-news/meet-edinburgh-ukraine-volunteers-making-25568209>**

## **Congregational Gathering**

Congregational Gathering after morning worship (Communion) on Sunday 22 January, where Rev. David Scott will give us an update on the vacancy and we will have the opportunity to ask him questions and share . A buffet lunch will be provided.

## A Music and Poetry Evening



Saturday 28 January 2023, 7.30pm

### **Music and Poetry for a Winter's Night**

Harp - Elinor Evans   Organ - Michael Harris  
Vocal Ensemble, directed by Brigitte Harris

### **January Poem** *Author Unknown*

January: Sparkling winter sunshine, face all aglow,  
making resolutions, and angels in the snow –  
steaming cups of cocoa, a year that's fresh and new...  
all of this is magic – unfolding just for you.

### **A Prayer for January**

Dear Heavenly Father, It is wonderful for us to start a new year, but as the month goes on, January can be hard for many. The cold and dreary weather, the calm after Christmas, and other elements can make January a tough month. Please help me remain positive in your joy instead of the temporary happiness of the world, and please be with those who are deeply down and need you now God. Amen.

“There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues.” – Hal Borland

## Flowers 2023

Once again a huge thank you to all those who have helped with the flowers over the last year and helped make the Church look so lovely. Not only is it a joy to see the great variety of colours and flowers brightening the Church on Sundays, it is also very nice to be able to distribute the flowers to those unwell, or for whatever reason, after the service.

I'm looking for volunteers again for the Flower Rota for 2023. There are plenty of Sunday slots to fill, so if you feel like doing the flowers more than once that would be great, especially as some regular contributors cannot now do them, (a big thank you to those people). May I remind you that you really don't have to be an expert flower arranger: a bunch of flowers from a supermarket, a small posy in any vase, a pot plant, or a full arrangement as you wish – all are enjoyed, and variety is nice. Some people wish to do flowers for a special anniversary, others just do them when it suits. Men are as welcome and as able as the ladies to do this, and we welcome families and children who would like to do the flowers together. Please just have a go, you may surprise yourself and enjoy it.

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 get together has restarted, with the next coffee morning on Thursday 26 January. You can find us in the Small Hall from 10.30am. Please come along and join us.

Yvonne Burnett

The Advent Collection has raised £676 so far – there may be some more still to add before sending it to the Salvation Army Gorgie Foodbank.

The Christian Aid Booksale will be in the Main Hall on 13 and 14 May.

There are times for people to bring books, but you can also bring books when you come to church on Sunday. Please leave them on the pews in front of the sound desk.



## Holy Corner Booksale 2023

### Book Donations

- We will be accepting book donations in January & February, from Wednesday, 18 January, 2023
- No home pick-ups, drop-off only, to:  
**Morningside United Church, Chamberlain Road entrance,**  
at the following times:  
Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon  
Saturdays 10 am - 12 noon

### We Want

- Non-fiction books; Scottish books particularly welcome
- Paperback fiction
- Children's books



### We Cannot Accept

- Encyclopaedias
  - Academic journals
  - Reader's Digest
  - Books in poor condition, due to mould, water-damage
  - CDs, DVDs
- (These won't sell, and would incur disposal costs.)

Morningside United Church, Holy Corner, EH10 4DJ  
In aid of Christian Aid: Charity No. SC039150  
Booksale website: <https://holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com>

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](mailto:churchoffice.muc@gmail.com).

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