

Church Diary for July / August

Sunday 6 July	11am Worship led by Rev Mary Taylor
Sunday 12 July	11am Worship led by Rev Dr Nick Brindley
Monday 13 July	3 pm Kirk Session in Centre Vestibule
Sunday 20 July	11am Worship led by Rev Sarah Moore
Monday 21 July	3pm Kirk Session Centre Vestibule
Sunday 27 July	11am Worship led by Rev Sarah Moore
Monday 28 July	2.30pm Afternoon Communion
Sunday 3 August	11am Worship led by Rev Mary Taylor
Sunday 10 August	11am Worship led by Peter Ranscombe
Sunday 17 August	11am Worship led by Rev Mary Taylor
Sunday 24 August	11am Worship led by Rev Sarah Moore
Sunday 31 August	11am Worship led by Rev Sarah Moore

cover photograph by Rev Mary Taylor

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A message from Rev Sarah...



Dear friends,

If you were to write or speak a statement of your faith, I wonder what you might say? If you have ever taken part in some sort of confirmation process in the past, this is something that you might have done at some point. If you have, would you say the same now as you did then?

Christians have been writing statements or confessions of their faith since the beginnings of the Church. Formal statements of faith are often known as creeds, with our siblings in some parts of the Church far more familiar with the learning and recitation of those that we tend to be in the Church of Scotland and United Reformed Church. The most commonly known creeds in the western churches today are the Apostles Creed, possibly in use in some form from around the year 150 CE, although certainly in a form recognisable to the Church today from the 4th century, and the Nicene Creed that arose from the ecumenical First Council of Nicea in 325 CE. In 2025, churches around the world, eastern and western traditions alike celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of the Nicea and consequently of the formulation of the Nicene Creed.

While we are less familiar with this creed as a part of our worship, both the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church recognise it as a central formulation of the Christian faith. The Nicene Creed itself was drawn up at the Council to address the controversy that had emerged in the second and third centuries provoked by the teachings of a priest and theologian named Arius. Arius was born about 270 CE, possibly in Libya, ordained priest around 312 CE with a ministry in Alexandria in Egypt. Arius was known for his talent as a preacher and revered for his commitment to an ascetic lifestyle.

Arius disagreed with many of his peers in respect of his teaching about the person of Jesus Christ.

New group from Southside Faith Care – Walking tennis

All are welcome, you don't need to be a member of a tennis club. We can also provide a few spare rackets if folk don't have their own equipment either. Details for the regular group on Thursdays are in the poster below.

Walking Tennis

Free!

Love tennis but looking for a gentler pace of play? Walking Tennis is safe, fun and a fantastic way to stay active!

When?
Thursdays, 2-3.30pm

Where?
Priestfield Tennis Club,
Kirkhill Road, EH16 5DE

Starts 24th July
office@southsidefaithcare.org
07478 543510

Membership not required
All abilities welcome
Just turn up and play!

Tennis SOUTHSIDE SCOTLAND FAITH CARE

Church Information

Coffee Mornings - Our fortnightly coffee mornings this month will be on Thursday 12 June and Thursday 26 June at 10.30 am. All are welcome. The coffee team will take a break during the month of July. We will resume on Thursday 7 August.

Afternoon Communion - There will be an afternoon service with communion on Monday 28 July at 2.30 pm followed by refreshments.

The 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.

MUC, known as Morningside United Artists. She had two lovely paintings by fellow artists in her room. She joined a church group to France on one of its trips there and took various bus trips and holidays.

Her eyesight deteriorated as she became older, and gradually after a period of ill health it became more difficult for her to live on her own so she moved into Morlich Church of Scotland Care Home. She settled in very well joining in various activities such as craft, singing and quizzes. She always kept up a keen interest in world affairs and politics and was able to talk with people about a range of matters.

She enjoyed her food and cooking, even when she could not cook, latterly she could tell you what she had chosen for her meal.

Shortly before she died, she fell and broke her hip and was recovering in Morlich but sadly passed away on Tuesday 3 June 2025. Flora had arranged her own funeral several years before. Particular tribute is made to Glen Brady, manager of Morlich, and the staff team there for their exceptional care of Flora in the eight years she was resident.

Timetable for Ministers – July and August

27 July	Rev Sarah Moore
3 August	Rev Mary Taylor
10 August	Peter Ranscombe
17 August	Rev Mary Taylor
24 August	Rev Sarah Moore
31 August	Rev Sarah Moore

A Prayer for August

May the Father who created a world of vibrant diversity be with us as we embrace life in all its fullness.

May the Son who teaches us to care for the stranger be with us, that we may be good neighbours in our communities.

May the Spirit who breaks down barriers and celebrates community, be with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.

Amen.

Others who accepted Arius' teachings became known as Arians. Arians maintain that the Son of God is/was not eternal but created from nothing by the Father. One of my theology lecturers many years ago, summarised this in the sentence, "there was a time when he was not". This means that Arius did not believe that Jesus was God but rather an instrument of the Father in the creation of the world, and the status as 'Son of God' something that the Father bestowed upon him.

Arius' own bishop, Alexander, denounced Arius' teachings at a synod meeting in Alexandria in 320 CE. However, his teachings continued to spread causing agitation across the Roman Empire. The Emperor Constantine, anxious about civil unrest, called a General Council in the city of Nicea in 325 CE to respond to the problem. The deacon and theologian Athanasius who led the contrary view to Arius defined what would become the catholic view which we inherit today, a faith that understands the Father and the Son to be coeternal and coequal. The Greek word used for this is *homoousios* in attempt to express this idea of consubstantiality.

Arius and the Arians were expelled as heretics. Arianism was formally declared a heresy. Heresies though rarely disappear. There are plenty of people today and have been through the centuries who struggle with the notion that Jesus, or any human, could possibly be fully God. What even does that mean someone might ponder. Does it matter if the person the world knows as Jesus Christ is nothing beyond a great moral teacher and example?

Michael Thompson in his very readable essay in Heresies and How to Avoid Them gives three reasons why for Christian people this matters. Firstly, if Jesus is a bridge between heaven and earth he needs to be fully God and fully human to do that. This is the difference between a religion that tells us to try harder and a faith that invites into a mystery of understanding that through the incarnation (God becoming one of us) and the cross (God's supreme act of love for creation), earth and heaven are not merely bridged but that there is no gap between them. Secondly, for Arius God was someone/something that ultimately could not be known. If Jesus was created, then he could not know God either. In catholic Christianity, Jesus offers creation a direct experience of God.

If Arius is right, then the love that creation receives and participates in from Jesus (and the Holy Spirit) is all well and lovely, but it isn't the love of God. Thirdly, why would we and the rest of creation want anything to do with the God of Arius. Arius' God does not give of God/him/themselves but merely shows kindness. Thompson reminds us that here catholic, orthodox Christianity is far more radical than the heresy.

Thompson suggests that the best defence against Arianism is a real and personal encounter with the risen Christ, and regular engagement with accounts of what Christ has done in and through others in worship. In Christ God does for and with us that which we cannot do for ourselves.

We might struggle to get our heads around the doctrine, but the Nicene Creed helps us to articulate it, to ourselves, each other, and to the world.

Here is the Nicene Creed in full.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

Obituary – Flora Newlands

Flora Newlands was born on 30 January 1929 in Stockbridge, 'Stockaree', which wasn't quite the trendy place it is today. She spoke of a happy childhood with her mother and father and brother Archie. She said her mother was a clever lady. Her father had worked in a job connected to the mines but an accident caused him to finish this; his own father had had a mining manager job near Airdrie. In the last war he was in the civil defence in London and his mining experience helped him with rescue work in the bombed areas. He liked the Londoners and they would give him a free drink in gratitude for his rescue work.

Flora attended the Flora Stevenson School and won two Burns poetry prizes. Her love of poetry continued throughout her life; she was a member of the Poetry Library for a while and still had a copy of Roger McGough's poetry beside her chair in Morlich. She said she was quite bright at school, enjoying singing, art and French. I believe the family later moved to Bruntsfield where she first attended Greyfriars Kirk and sang in the choir, then eventually attending MUC and singing in the choir here.

She had had singing lessons when she was younger and was still in good voice at MUC shortly before she died. She was an Elder here at MUC, and as a congregation, we give thanks for her energy and commitment to that ministry.

After school she went into the Civil Service, possibly in the Benefits section, and worked at one time near Dalkeith. She liked the down-to-earth miners she came across there.

Archie was in the REME (engineers) in the war and had a tough time according to Flora. He emigrated to Australia afterwards.

She married Ken Newlands, and they lived in Montpelier Park. They had no children but travelled quite a lot on holiday in Europe. Flora took part in church visits to Carcassonne, Chartres, and Tours along with her personal travel.

After Ken died, she kept up her interests in art, poetry and Scots Language, attending a Scots language group and an art group here at

Drew Crichton

Drew started his Bachelor of Music degree at Edinburgh Napier University in 2012. Shortly after starting university, he also took up a choral scholarship at St Andrews and St Georges church. In 2015 he was awarded an organ scholarship at the church under the tutelage of Brigitte Harris. In 2016 Drew graduated from Napier University with first class honours and was awarded the Makin Piano prize for his year. It was also at this time that he was made assistant organist at St Andrews and St Georges West.



Drew has performed at the Fringe festival on multiple occasions and plays regularly for choirs in Edinburgh and Glasgow. As well as his organ commitments, Drew has a busy teaching schedule at George Watsons College and Mansfield School of Music.

Reading and Flower Rota for July and August

	Readers:	Flowers:
20 July	David Donald	Jennifer Gruber
27 July	Judy Wagner	Judy Wagner
3 August	Rose Kumbanga	Maggie McKenzie
10 August	Rev Mary Taylor	Rev Mary Taylor
17 August	Hamish McKenzie	Maggie McKenzie
24 August	Elizabeth MacGregor	Vacant
31 August	Lesley Donald	Maggie McKenzie

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father (and the Son).
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The phrase 'and the Son' is bracketed to recognise that our siblings in Eastern Orthodoxy understand that the Holy Spirit proceeds only from the Father while western Christians have believed that the Holy Spirit proceeds from both Father and Son. What might seem like a sleight of words is known as the filioque controversy and is part of what lies behind continuing divisions between the churches of east and west.

We will return to reflect further on the Nicene Creed in future editions of The Link. For today, I invite you to read through the Nicene Creed slowly and reflect on what you make of it. What bits are harder to understand than others? What questions would you like to ask the 300+ Fathers of the First Council of Nicea about it? What would you like to ask Arius if you could? More importantly, what would you include in your own personal creed or statement of faith?

With love and prayers
Sarah

reference - Ben Quash and Michael Ward (eds.), Heresies and How to Avoid Them, Why it matters what Christians believe, (London: SPCK, 1997)

Message of thanks from Mary Taylor, pastoral assistant

We were delighted that Sue Caton, Eric Liddell's niece was able to join us at a Thursday coffee morning recently. Many thanks to her for the lovely bird bath which is now in position in the Eric Liddell peace garden.

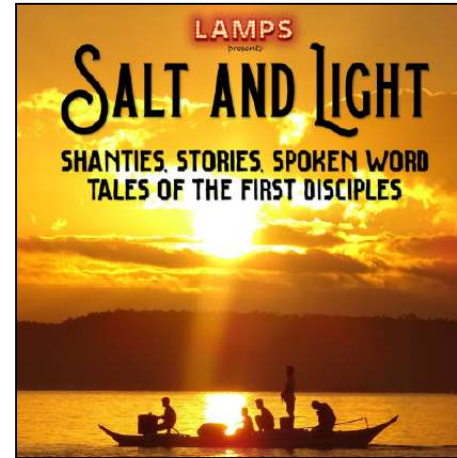
Photo is of Jennifer Gruber, Daphne Paton, Fi Brown and Sue Caton in the Eric Liddell peace garden in June 2025.



It has been a great joy and delight to welcome and host Delene Mark from Cape Town who is the chair of the South Africa board of the Community of the Cross of Nails. Delene is a lay canon of the Anglican Church in South Africa, and she has been attending the meeting of the chairpeople of the international boards of CCN in Coventry. She is CEO for Hope Africa www.hopeafrica.org.za

This has been Delene's first visit to Scotland. During her visit she spent time at Holy Corner meeting John MacMillan, CEO Eric Liddell

Audience reviews: 'A very moving and beautiful portrayal of the most amazing story in history. Phenomenal performers!'
'Absolutely mesmerising. Really helped me get into the characters of the people involved – who represent us all really.'



Lake Galilee, AD 30, and in the little fishing community of Capernaum, rumours of miracles and healings abound. Five members of one family struggle to make sense of the radical new teacher walking their shores. Who is this man? What is he? And what might it all mean for them and their lives? Join us around the campfire for shanties, stories and spoken word – the tales of the first disciples.

Beautiful collection of stories – OUTSTANDING!'. I loved the humour... I think I was either laughing or crying throughout the whole show!
(Audience reviews)

Welcome Rota

Welcoming folk to worship and church related activities Delene Mark from South Africa appreciated her warm welcome from Morningside United Church.

Welcoming people to Morningside United Church at the door is part of our church life. During the next few months, I will be approaching folk to see if they would like to be on a welcome rota.

Many thanks to all those who have agreed to be part of this important service and church life.

Rev Mary Taylor

LAMPS Festival performances

If you missed the Easter play in the church, the performers are now coming to the Edinburgh festival fringe with the same play and another one. Fergus Munro (from our near neighbours Cornerstone Free Church as well as LAMPS) sent this message.

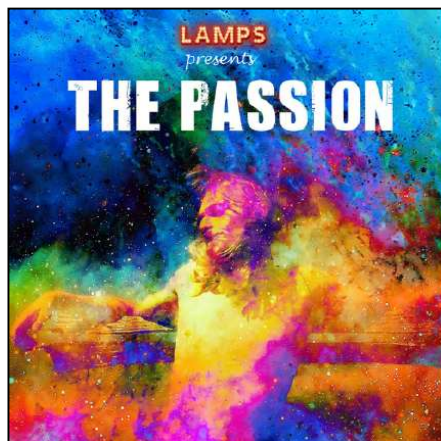
“It was wonderful bringing The Passion to your church, and I wanted to let you know about our upcoming productions.

Our work has had a great impact nationwide, but we’re particularly delighted to be bringing two of our shows to the Edinburgh Fringe for the first time, from the 6th - 9th of August. The Passion, is a more serious piece exploring the events of Holy Week through the eyes of Peter, Mary Magdalene, and a Centurion named Marcus. Salt and Light is a lighter show exploring Jesus’ ministry and miracles through shanties and stories.



We pray that amongst the 4000 other stories being told in August, we can help to make the Greatest Story, the Gospel, shine out amongst them, and be a little Salt and Light ourselves in an overwhelmingly secular mission field. Your prayers would mean so much as we step into this mission field.”

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are recreated in this moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter story, through monologue and song. Told from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus, this powerful contemporary drama leads us up to and through the events of Holy Week, to the cross and beyond.



Community and hearing about the range of dementia services that are available there. In South Africa all dementia services are paid for.

Next, we visited the new Eric Liddell exhibition which is now permanently in the Eric Liddell Community. This thought provoking exhibition was opened by Princess Royal, patron of the Eric Liddell Community. It is well worth a visit.

On Friday Delene and I shared the litany for reconciliation from Coventry.

Delene very kindly planted three Agapanthus from South Africa in the Eric Liddell peace garden. Please pop in and admire them as the Edinburgh Sketchers were doing.

During her first visit to Scotland Delene went on a tourist bus around Edinburgh, appreciated the North Sea at Newhaven, visited Melrose and admired the magnificent scenery around the Trossachs. We shared stories of families, friends, churches and community life from South Africa and Scotland on our journeys and during meals.

On Sunday 13th July Delene kindly brought greetings from South Africa to Morningside Unite Church. She was so pleased that worship led by Nick Brindley included Drew Crichton, our new organist leading the singing of Thuma mina (Send me Lord). Delene knew Archbishop Desmond Tutu personally and she said he introduced Thuma mina to Taize.

Hopefully this new connection we have now made between the Community of the Cross of Nails in South Africa and Scotland will grow, deepen and flourish in the years to come.

(As Mary mentions, the Edinburgh Sketchers were in the garden and the church on the same day as Delene’s visit, and a couple of other sessions to have sketches of our building as part of part of their exhibition in the church MUC taking part in Doors Open Day on 28 September).

Moira Vance - MBE in the King's Birthday Awards

I was absolutely stunned and, once the news had sunk in, extremely pleased to receive a letter from the Cabinet Office Honours and Appointments Secretariat advising me that I had been nominated to receive an MBE 'for a lifetime of dedication to administrative excellence and correspondence in Scotland'. The nomination was to be sent to The King for final approval. I received the letter at the beginning of May, and it was a tense 6 week wait until it was confirmed that I was on the final list. I discovered that colleagues had nominated me for the award, and they had managed to keep the secret since submitting my name in December 2024.

I have yet to receive a date for the Investiture but am already looking forward to the Ceremony which will be at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle or the Palace of Holyroodhouse.



Miniature version of MBE medal (bought from St Paul's Cathedral gift shop)

Anyone can nominate somebody for an Honour by completing a nomination form and sending relevant information. If you know someone in the church, your community or circle of friends that deserve recognition, do consider nominating them. I can certainly say that my MBE has given me a huge morale boost and is a source of great pleasure for my family, colleagues and friends.

<https://honours.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/how-to-nominate/nomination-guidance/>

Link to Birthday Honours List 2025 PM List (my entry is page 115)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/684af00431f1fc7d0801aba4/Birthday_Honours_List_2025_PM_List_Transparency_Data.pdf

Link to Scotland Office news release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/recipients-from-scotland-in-hm-the-kings-birthday-honours-list>

News release contains the following:

The Secretary of State for Scotland, Ian Murray, said:

I am delighted to congratulate all those recognised in the King's Birthday Honours list, particularly John and Lorna Norgrove on their well-deserved OBEs for their extraordinary humanitarian work in Afghanistan through the Linda Norgrove Foundation. Their dedication to improving the lives of Afghan women and girls, born from personal tragedy, exemplifies the very best of Scottish compassion and resolve.

Communities across Scotland benefit from the extraordinary effort of those honoured. From Dr Richa Sinha Chair of the Scottish Hindu society and their work to tackle Hinduphobia, to Zahrah Mahmood Chair of the Rambling Society to Heather Hall founding The Usual Place in Dumfries.

I would also like to extend special recognition to Scotland Office's own Moira Vance on receiving her MBE. Moira's unwavering commitment to public service has been instrumental in the work of our department for 44 years, and this honour reflects her exceptional contribution to the people of Scotland.

The Honours list showcases the remarkable achievements of individuals across Scotland who have gone above and beyond in their respective fields. Their service to our communities represents the spirit of dedication and excellence that makes Scotland proud.



Rt Hon Ian Murray, Secretary of State For Scotland and I on the balcony of Dover House at Trooping the Colour Parade.