



Link *The*
Magazine of

Morningside United Church



June 2023

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to, commented on and been supportive of our strategy for going forward as proposed by the Kirk Session and endorsed by the Church Meeting on 28 May. This captures where Morningside United is and sets out the beginning of a way forward as we enter the season of Pentecost.

The strategy document is now with the National Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church as consideration is given to our request for transitional ministry in MUC. I hope and pray that the opportunities for mission and growth that we have identified will be recognised and our deployment request will be looked upon favourably.

After a great deal of effort, a meeting was held on 29 May in Mayfield Salisbury to discuss the proposed union in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian's Mission Plan. The outcome of this meeting is captured in the following statement, which is being communicated to all three congregations.

Fifteen representatives from the congregations of Marchmont St Giles, Morningside United and St Catherine's Argyle met in person on Monday 29 May to discuss the three-way union proposed in the Presbytery Plan. There are significant common areas of focus and ideas about ways in which we can work together to achieve our common aims, albeit with some practical challenges to address. However, it was encouraging to identify many opportunities for mission and growth alongside the energy and diversity of talent in the room. We look forward to our next meeting in late June.

We will continue to participate in this process.

Please take time to enjoy the warmer sunnier days of June and appreciate the beauty and wonder of God's creation. Although strategies and statements are important, we need to be careful that we do not let them consume our thoughts to the extent that they distract us from the grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)

Musings from Mary Taylor, Pastoral Assistant, MUC

“Now thank we all our God” -words of a familiar hymn.

It feels like a good time to reflect after 6 months about some of the recent times which I feel particularly thankful about.

Afternoon communion and tea

Thanks to all those who supported this lovely, musical afternoon communion and tea in any way. It was definitely good teamwork. We were delighted to see friends, Flora and Joan, enjoying each other’s company again. In fact, it was such a success that we are planning to have two more afternoon communions and teas, hopefully taking place in August and October. Watch this space for dates.



We received a card from Janette White:

Thank you for such a lovely day on Tuesday. Many thanks to all those who organized the event. Thank you to the Moderator, the Minister and all the helpers. Thank you for the lovely tea that was served, it was a very memorable day.

Christian Aid book sale and cafe

Did you get any books Mary?

Yes, thanks I really enjoyed buying a wide selection of fiction and nonfiction and have enhanced my peace and reconciliation collection of books.

Many thanks to all those who spent a great deal of time and energy preparing for, supporting, and encouraging “happy shoppers” and tidying up the books afterwards. A good financial amount was raised for Christian Aid too.

Eric Liddell peace garden and recipe book

It is the time of year when we can watch the brilliant Chelsea Flower Show and be inspired by all the creative gardens.

Thanks to all those who have suggested plants for the Eric Liddell peace garden. I am delighted to tell you we have the support of Eric Liddell 100 too. Fi Brown from the Eric Liddell Community is a horticulturalist and is going to be involved in helping to make the Eric Liddell peace garden become a reality.

Eric Liddell 100 recipe book

This idea has been inspired by the Eric Liddell Centre recipe book published in 1994. That book was full of recipes given by well-remembered church and community members at Holy Corner. This time I am starting to collect recipes again and John MacMillan, Chief Executive Officer, Eric Liddell Community, is going to be in touch with some valuable contacts too. He has graciously suggested instead of a fixed price we should ask for donations, and they will go to the Eric Liddell peace garden.

Summer outing



Some folk from MUC have expressed interest in having a summer outing by train to visit the beautiful Great Tapestry of Scotland. It is now in its permanent residence in Galashiels. Please speak to me if you are interested in this visit. There is good wheelchair access. Eric Liddell tapestry is one of 160 panels.

Thanks to you all for a very special and enjoyable six months.

Mary Taylor
(Pastoral Assistant)

Christian Aid Book Sale

Thanks to everyone who came along to this year's Christian Aid Booksale (13/14 May) organised by the Holy Corner Churches Christian Aid Committee. As ever, there was a lot of hard work put into the collation and preparation of the books in the Main Hall. Thank you to everyone who helped and worked so hard. Also thank you to everyone who either bought and/or brought books for the sale.

A total of £6534 was raised for Christian Aid this year which was a fantastic amount. With fewer people carrying cash, 40% of that total was from a contactless device supplied by Christian Aid. Payments made on that go direct to Christian Aid.

Sometimes more unusual or valuable books are donated. Any not sold after appearing at the sale are put up for sale online. Since last year's Booksale £951 was raised for Christian Aid this way. Again, the money goes direct to them.

Good news

On Monday 15 May it was announced that Revd. Lindsey Sanderson (current minister of Hamilton and Righead URCs) had been appointed as the new Moderator, National Synod of Scotland.

Lindsey is due to take over the position in January 2024, when Revd Paul Whittle retires.

Regarding the news Lindsey comments:

"I am greatly looking forward to serving the Synod as its next Moderator. The Synod and before it the Congregational Union of Scotland, has been the community of faith which has nurtured and supported me since I was a young person, and I am grateful for the trust that has been placed in me to continue my ministry in this way. I look forward to building up relationships and journeying across the Synod as well as with our ecumenical partners and the wider denomination."

Reading and Flower Rota for June

Readers:

June 4	Keith Wilson
June 11	David Donald
June 18	Maggie McKenzie
June 26	Rose Kambanga

Flowers:

June 4th	Maggie for Val Williamson
June 11th	Yvonne Burnett
June 18th	Pam Brindley
June 25th	Vacant

Thank you to everyone who volunteers with doing the flower arrangements and doing the reading on Sundays. It really is appreciated.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for any weeks during July and August, please get in contact.

Maggie McKenzie
261 4908

A Blessing

Be present.

Let the day flow with love.

Expect joy. Be positive.

Serve with compassion.

Speak only kindness.

Impart only love.

Never forget you're not alone.

Give thanks for everything.

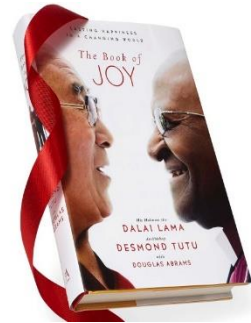
See goodness in others.

Book Recommendation

The Book of Joy

By His Holiness the Dalai Lama
and Archbishop Desmond Tutu
with Douglas Abrams

In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu travelled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create this book as a gift for others.



They look back on their long lives to answer a single burning question; how do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?

They traded intimate stories, teased each other continually, and shared their spiritual practices.

By the end of a week filled with laughter and punctuated with tears, these two global heroes had stared into the abyss and despair of our times and revealed how to live a life brimming with joy.

This book offers us a rare opportunity to experience their astonishing and unprecedented week together, from their first embrace to the final goodbye.

"We grow in kindness when our kindness is tested." Desmond Tutu

The Link Articles

If you have an article that you would like to contribute to our monthly magazine, please get in touch with the church office by emailing churchoffice.muc@gmail.com. Whether it is something local currently going on, a memory, photos of the local area from yesteryear, if you'd like to share, please get in touch.

Church Life at MUC – An Update

Coffee Mornings – Our fortnightly coffee mornings continue in the Small Hall from 10.30 am - noon. This month we have a get together on Thursday 15 June and 29 June.

As usual there will be no coffee mornings in July. We will resume again on Thursday 3 August from 10.30 am - noon.

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.

Yvonne Burnett

Timetable for Ministers during June

11 June – Rev David Scott

18 June – Layperson Peter Ranscombe

25 June – Rev Mary Taylor

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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