



Link

*The
Magazine of*

Morningside United Church



March 2024

A message from Rev Sarah...

Dear friends,

Most readers of the Link will be aware that while I work three days a week (or so!) focusing on transitional ministry at Morningside United, the remaining time within my ministry (two days, or so) continues to offer similar skills to other congregations within the United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland. Sometimes I am asked to summarise what I do and do so by describing this ministry as working alongside congregations, and the people who lead them, to discern and develop visions and strategies for mission and ministry for the short and medium term future. As the world changes so quickly, and particularly so since the coronavirus pandemic, I find myself feeling nervous about planning too much for the long term in almost any aspect of life.

My involvement in other places includes shorter- and longer-term pieces of work, leading the new synod mission committee, and representing the National Synod of Scotland in some wider fora. Most notably this includes the whole URC Mission Enablers Network as well as some other ad-hoc groups. A few weeks ago, I had an opportunity to attend an ecumenical Fresh Expressions gathering. Participants attended the event in denominational teams, with teams present from the Churches of England and Scotland, the Methodist Church, and the Salvation Army, as well as the United Reformed Church.

As the basis for reflection at the event we were invited to ponder three questions: What Is? What Could Be? What Will Be? in respect of the communities we each work. Or in other words, firstly what are the realities of place, people, and overall situation at the present time? Secondly, given everything that could impact positively happening, happens, what might the future look like?

This is an opportunity to dream a little or a lot, to consider outcome if every possible risk paid off and worked out to the best, if everyone who needs to get behind a project to make it work does their thing. Lastly, what will happen? This could be what will be the future if

nothing changes, and a community or situation continues exactly as they are at present, or a community simply does whatever it normally does. Or this could be answered to mean something changes in between doing nothing and everything possible happening so some middle outcome emerges.

Here's an example of this using my garden as the focus.

What Is?

At present at the end of the winter, my garden is a bit of a mess. I haven't cleared away the detritus from last year. Some areas are overgrown. I did plant garlic before Christmas in one area. I have bought seed potatoes and tomato seeds ready to plant in the spring.

What Could Be?

Everything could be cleared out of beds, borders and greenhouse. I could plant what I have, buy some new shrubs and plant those, keep on top of the work through the growing season and have a stunning garden.

What Will Be?

A bit of tidying up will happen. The greenhouse will get sorted out and some of the beds and borders cleared. Tomatoes and potatoes will be planted, and some other plants bought from the garden centre. The garden will be acceptable through the better months and there will be some homegrown vegetables to eat.

In this example the What Will Be outcome is not a bad one. It is what realistically is likely to happen given other constraints e.g. my time, the weather etc. But I am challenged to wonder what I could do better or at least differently.

It's worth our pondering these questions here at MUC. What Is? What Could Be? What Will Be?

What might we be called to do that will shift us closer towards what could be the future for our church rather than what will be? Of course, I have assumed a 'could' outcome in positive terms; a could be might be the worst or least desired future with the 'will' outcome something more attractive than that. I invite you to ponder these questions in

relation to MUC (and to whatever other area of life you wish!) over the coming weeks. I'd be interested to hear what you think in due course!

Meanwhile as we continue through Lent our Sunday themes follow a social justice theme as suggested through the Word in the World Resource prepared by our colleagues who write that material. We journey with Jesus towards Jerusalem with these themes reflecting on how our faith and discipleship informs and deepens our own life experience.

With love and prayers
Sarah

The Revd Sarah Moore
Transitional Minister

March Poem – Spring into Easter by Sara Fox

Spring into Easter!
It's a wonderful time of year
To celebrate Jesus' new life
As buds and flowers appear.

Jesus died on the cross
To show the world God's love.
On the third day he rose gain
With the power of God above.

Spring into Easter!
It's a wonderful time of year
As church bells ring on Easter morn
For everyone to hear.

So with delicious treats
And Easter eggs galore,
Let's celebrate Jesus' new life
For now and ever more!

Musings From Mary Taylor, Pastoral Assistant, MUC

Musings from November

Recently some of us went to a very interesting event entitled “The Life and Death of Eric Liddell and the Rebirth of Chinese Christianity” in the Playfair library, Edinburgh University. It was sponsored by Edinburgh University, Eric Liddell 100, Christ Church and Morningside United Church.

Message from Professor Hugh Goddard (Christ Church) who was the organiser and chaired the event.

“Thank you for coming along to the recent event on “The Life and Death of Eric Liddell and the Rebirth of Chinese Christianity” and I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to reflect together on Liddell’s own involvement in China, and on the subsequent history of Chinese Christianity, both in China and here in Scotland. The recording of the first session is currently in the process of final editing, and will shortly be available on YouTube, via a link from the Eric Liddell 100 website -The Eric Liddell 100 – The Eric Liddell Community.

Other resources on Eric Liddell’s life and achievements are available on that site, including the Massive Open-Access Online Course -Online Learning -The Eric Liddell Community. This is now matched by a parallel resource which is intended for use particularly in schools, to introduce Eric Liddell to a younger generation who may not necessarily be familiar with “Chariots of Fire” - Education Resource -The Eric Liddell Community.

Looking ahead plans are being made for an interfaith celebration of Eric Liddell’s legacy at St. Giles Cathedral on Saturday 22 June. For further details of this and other events which are being arranged as part of the Eric Liddell 100 programme, keep an eye on Eric Liddell 100 Workstreams – The Eric Liddell Community.”

Eric Liddell 100 continues to be marked in different ways in Morningside United Church.

Please look out for details in future Links including plays in the summer about Eric Liddell and on Saturday 10 August - the dedication of the Eric Liddell peace garden and a garden party.

Mary Taylor
(Pastoral Assistant)

Christian Aid Booksale

MUC members can also bring books on Sundays and put them in front of the sound desk.



Holy Corner Booksale

Saturday, May 11 & Sunday May 12 2024

WANTED!

Book Donations

- We will be accepting book donations from Wednesday, January 17 until the end of March, 2024
- 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
- Scottish books
- 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>

Timetable for Ministers during March

3 March	Rev Mary Taylor
10 March	Rev Bill Brown
17 March	Rev Jack Dyce
24 March	Layperson Peter Ranscombe
31 March	Rev Sarah Moore

"Faith in Scotland's Constitutional Future"

This is a project of the School of Critical Studies / Theology & Religious Studies at the University of Glasgow, led by Professor Heather Walton and the Rev Dr Doug Gay. This is an ecumenical, non-partisan and politically/constitutionally neutral research project exploring how folk in churches relate faith to constitutional questions in Scotland.

As part of this project, twelve regional events for church members/adherents are taking place around Scotland. After video presentations from four Christians prominent in Scottish politics (two pro-Union and two pro-Independence) the discussion will involve listening respectfully to one another's positions and arguments. This will aim towards relating this difficult and emotive topic to the common Christian faith of participants.

There will be an event at Morningside United Church, Edinburgh, on Monday 18 March starting at 7 pm. Admission is free. I am very grateful to the Rev Sarah Moore and the congregation of Morningside United Church for helping to facilitate this. Members of your congregation are very welcome to come.

Midweek Communion

We will be having a midweek communion on Tuesday 12 March at 2.30pm led by Rev Mary Taylor, with refreshments afterwards. All are welcome to attend.

Reading and Flower Rota for March

Readers:

3 March	Elizabeth MacGregor
10 March	Helen Willoughby
17 March	Mary Nisbett
24 March	Keith Wilson
31 March	Rev Mary Taylor

Flower Rota:

3 March	Elizabeth MacGregor
10 March	Sheila Cadger
17 March	Janet Wightman
24 March	Daphne Paton
31 March	Rev Mary Taylor

If you would like to help with the Flower Rota in April, or even volunteer to read in one of our services, please get in contact, everyone is most welcome.

Maggie McKenzie

261 4908

Lent collection

This year our Lent special collection will go to Rev Annie Kapinda in Malawi Blantyre Synod who runs a school for orphans. She is a friend of Rose Kumbanga and visited us a few years ago. Cash in the bucket in the church, cheque in the bucket or by post or by electronic payment to the church account, giving a reference Lent, are all welcome. Any cheques should be payable to MUC. If you need bank details, please ask Lesley Donald (ask via church office if you are not at church).

Speaking Truth to Power – talk at Christ Church

A conversation with Martha Hennessy - Dorothy Day's granddaughter and prominent social activist. This event will be held on Friday 22 March 6pm-7.30pm. Tickets: Free admission via Eventbrite ticketing.

Church Life at MUC – An Update

Congregational Meeting - Congregational AGM will be held after morning worship on 17 March. The purpose of the AGM is to receive and approve the accounts for 2023. Copies of the accounts are available. The meeting also elects the secretary, treasurer and independent examiner for 2024.

Coffee Mornings - Our March coffee mornings will take place as usual in the Small Hall from 10.30am on Thursday 7 March and Thursday 21 March. Please join us for warm company, a warm drink and some cake.

Edinburgh Napier Lunchtime Concerts – We are so lucky to have the Edinburgh Napier Lunchtime concerts returning to MUC. If you've not been able to attend one so far, please come along, because they are the perfect pause for a busy life. The Napier University music students are so talented, the concerts provides them with experience playing to audiences and to show case their talents. The concerts will be held on Wednesday 6 March, 20 March, 10 April, starting at 1.15pm. A varied programme of instrumental and vocal music will be performed. The doors will be open, it is a free event, so please come along and take a short time out of your day to sit, listen and relax.

Edinburgh Bookshop Author Event – On Monday 11 March there will be an author event in celebration of Women's History Month, Edinburgh Bookshop are delighted to welcome authors Kathleen B Jones, Victoria Mackenzie and Kate Foster to discuss their novels and the topic of revisioning women in history.

Salvation Army Foodbank – we are starting to collect food items for the Gorgie Salvation Army foodbank. If you would like to donate we will be very grateful for tinned food, pasta, jams etc - non-perishable items.

Mahjong Group – Classes for beginners, intermediates etc are taking place both here at Morningside United Church and Eric Liddell Centre on alternate weeks. The group is meeting each Friday afternoon 2pm-4pm. For March the groups will be as follows:

1 March – Eric Liddell Centre
8 March – Morningside United Church, Small Hall
15 March – Eric Liddell Centre
22 March – Morningside United Church, Small Hall
29 March – Eric Liddell Centre

Everyone is most welcome to come along and try their hand. If you'd like more information, email us here at churchoffice.muc@gmail.com.

Advance Notice - Inspiration Orchestra concert 14 April - again you have the poster in office mail. Maybe just date and time and a link to their website and the poster as given could go in April Link.

Edinburgh University Chamber Choir - Edinburgh University Chamber Choir will be performing on Saturday 23 March at 7pm in the beautiful setting of Morningside United Church in Edinburgh. They are considered one of the best choirs in Scotland having opportunities to sing globally in countries such as Italy, Ireland, and in the coming summer, Denmark! The choir is predominantly made up of university students with varying choral experiences who come together to perform some of the most renowned choral pieces secular and sacred.

The title of this concert will be "Cantos Sagrados" meaning sacred songs, which is fitting for the setting. There will be music by James MacMillan with whom the choir performed "Who shall separate us" which was written for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, as well as pieces by Elgar, Walton, MacDonald, Cooke and Holst.

Diary for March

Sunday 3 March

Lent 3

11am Worship led by Rev Mary Taylor

Wednesday 6 March

1.15pm

Napier University Lunchtime Concert in MUC

Thursday 7 March

10.30am -12noon

Fortnightly coffee morning in the small hall

Friday 8 - Sunday 10
March

Residential United Reformed Church National
Synod of Scotland at Tulliallan

Sunday 10

Mothering Sunday – Lent 4

11am Worship led by Rev Bill Brown

Monday 11 March

6.45pm Kirk Session

Tuesday 12 March

12.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 17 March

Lent 5

11am Worship led by Rev Jack Dyce

Wednesday 20 March

1.15pm Napier Concert in MUC

Thursday 21 March

10.30am -12noon

Fortnightly coffee morning in the small hall

Saturday 23 March

7pm Edinburgh University Chamber Choir

Sunday 24 March

Palm Sunday

11am Worship led by Peter Ranscombe

Thursday 28 March

Maundy Thursday Service at Christ Church

11.30 Worship led by Rev Sarah Moore

Friday 29 March

Good Friday

6.30pm Led by Rev Sarah Moore &
Preacher Peter Ranscombe

Saturday 30 March

Holy Saturday at Christ Church

Sunday 31 March

EASTER DAY

Easter Service

11am including the sacrament of Holy
Communion led by Rev Sarah Moore

Wednesday Lunchtime Concerts at 1.15pm

Morningside United Church, Holy Corner

A varied programmes of vocal & instrumental music
performed by Edinburgh Napier University music

6 & 20 March and 10 & 24 April

Free Admission – Everyone Welcome

Front page photography by Sarah McKernan

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.

To get in contact, please email: churchoffice.muc@gmail.com

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