



# **Link** *The Magazine of*

**Morningside United Church**



**May 2024**

## A message from Rev Sarah...

Dear friends,

Where do you find joy in your life?

What makes you glad?

When in your daily, weekly, monthly or annual 'routine' are you most likely to feel happy?

The Constitution of the United States of America affirms that "all men (sic) are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". At the time of writing and today, this assertion was and is a radical statement. At the end of the 18th century and for almost a century following, chattel slavery was a brutal reality for the majority of African origin people in the United States. While the civil rights movement of the twentieth century made a massive impact on the lives of African-Americans, racism continues to be a huge issue in the United States and in other countries around the world today. The words of writer George Orwell in his novel *Animal Farm* that all animals are equal, and some are more equal than others still resonates with many people. It would seem that Life, Liberty and Happiness are more available to some individuals, and some parts of the community, than others.

Life, Liberty and Happiness form a triumvirate of rights; it is difficult to see how anyone might have one without the other two too.

In John 10.10, within Jesus' preaching identifying himself as the Good Shepherd, Jesus describes the purpose of his ministry that, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Or as other translations put, 'I came that they might have life, life in all its fullness'. Might there be a relationship between life in all its fullness and Life, Liberty and Happiness? It is difficult to imagine an expression of life in all its fullness where an individual or a community does not experience those three things. We might also ask the question about what constitutes life in all its fullness and while life and liberty can be objectively quantified, measuring happiness is considerably trickier. Its perhaps one of those things that is easier to start to define by saying what it is not rather than what it is.

The experience of joy is something that is part of living the Christian life. Joy is something that we perhaps experience in fleeting snatches

for the most part rather than as a steady state. As we need to know darkness to understand light, do we need to know not-joy to be able to recognise it when it comes? This isn't to say that most of our time should be bound up in misery but without other experience how can we recognise joy or happiness when it finds us?

Maybe life in all its fullness is one of those things that might bring happiness or joy and we have little or no control over whether or not we or anyone else experience it. Perhaps we put in the ingredients, life and liberty among other things, and hope that happiness and joy will follow. Maybe too that if we intentionally seek happiness, for ourselves and for our community, then happiness and joy will be more likely to follow.

It is sometimes said that one of the purposes of local churches is to be salt and light in the communities in which we find ourselves. We are called to enable the people and all of creation in our small corner of Edinburgh to have life in all its fullness. Of course that is a big task. But being followers of Jesus is a big task anyway and this is a part of that. We might ponder the question that if we were not occupying our place on one section of Holy Corner whether our community would notice? They'd realise our church buildings were not there but what if activity ceased? We provide space for people and groups to meet, and in a world that does not always encourage community, this is a great thing. Freedom to meet requires somewhere to meet.

As we reflect on ideas of joy, of happiness, Life and Liberty, and life in all its fullness, we ponder both how we find these for ourselves and how we can enable those around us to discover those too.

With love and prayers,  
Sarah

The Revd Sarah Moore  
Transitional Minister

## A Prayer for May

Holy Father, you are the Creator of the heavens and earth and you are faithful and worthy of all the glory and honor. Thank you for the blessing of a new month. I pray for joy, love, and laughter in abundance. Guide me daily to make wise decisions in May. Drawing near to me as I draw near to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

## May Morn

May morn brings in a new day,  
A blanket of dew to mark the way,  
Birds sing sweet melodies and dance,  
Nature's rhythm is in full transe.  
May flowers glisten with the morning light,  
Nature's beauty is such a sight,  
The world awakens with a sweet embrace,  
May morn is here, offering an inner grace.

## Musings From Mary Taylor, Pastoral Assistant, MUC

Easter 2024

In April while visiting Jude, an ecumenical, Roman Catholic friend in hospital he asked, "How was your Easter?"

We both agreed Easter had been a time this year that was different and there had been deep, reflective times.

Maundy Thursday

I attended two very meaningful communion services in Edinburgh. In the afternoon Yvonne Burnett and I went to Duke Street URC for Tenebrae led by Rev David Scott and then we went to Christ Church for a Sung Eucharist of the Lord's Supper. Rev Sarah Moore preached at this service and there was an opportunity of having traditional foot washing.

## Good Friday

“Root out of dry ground” was a Good Friday Reflective Service from 12 noon - 3pm in Augustine United Church. It was led by Rev Fiona Bennett, Augustine United Church URC and members of the ministry team from St Columba’s - by-the Castle, Scottish Episcopal Church and Greyfriars Kirk Church of Scotland.

Stories of Moses, Hagar and Jesus from the Bible and music for reflection unfolded telling and reminding us of the great themes of salvation, belonging, healing, forgiveness, compassion and courage. Side by side with the reflections we planted seed prayers in soil and there was silence.

On Good Friday evening in Morningside United Church there was a very poignant service led by Rev Sarah Moore and Peter Ranscombe. Peter preached linking in Good Friday with the gifts of the wise men - gold, frankincense and myrrh.

## Holy Saturday

On Holy Saturday afternoon I sat in Princes Street Gardens watching a free, live version of the Easter story. This year it was entitled “Easter - The Women’s Story”.

This play focuses on the women whose lives are changed by Jesus in so many ways. The Gospel is presented in such a creative manner to a large community audience. Hopefully this will be able to continue. Further details are available [www.easterplay.org](http://www.easterplay.org)

## Easter Day

On Easter Sunday morning Rev Sarah Moore and Brigitte Harris and the MUC choir led a joyful, hopeful service including the sacrament of Holy Communion. It was full of the message that “Jesus Christ is risen.”

## “Eric’s Escapes 2024”

Overnight Breaks and Daybreaks for Carers with or without their Carer for Creative Breaks organized by the Eric Liddell Community.

Recently I was privileged to be part of one of Eric’s Escapes. We visited the birthplace of David Livingstone. It is now a museum dedicated to the life and work of the explorer and missionary.

Perhaps you, like me, visited it years ago?

The David Livingstone Birthplace Museum was reopened in 2021 and it tells the story of David Livingstone from birth to death before exploring his legacy.



The welcoming and informative guide says:

“In giving a fuller account of Livingstone’s life, we see that he was, like many of us, not without human flaws, nevertheless he made a positive difference to the world. It is also important to realise that Livingstone did not work alone; he was influenced and aided by many others.

You will hear about overlooked figures who made an important contribution to his life’s work such as his wife Mary (Moffat) Livingstone and two of his African companions, James Chuma and Abdullah Susi, amongst others.”

David Livingstone’s Birthplace is definitely worth a visit. Please speak to me if you are interested in a church visit to either David Livingstone’s Birthplace, Blantyre or the Great Tapestry of Scotland, Galashiels.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 6 July and Thursday 11 July

Eric Liddell 100 - 2 plays linked to the story of Eric Liddell are being performed in Morningside United Church - more details will be in the next Link magazine and also on the MUC website.

Mary Taylor  
(Pastoral Assistant)



## Christian Aid Booksale



The annual Christian Aid Booksale is on at MUC this May, in the Main Hall, which you can enter from Bruntsfield Place.

Many people have helped arrange this event, from those who have kindly donated books, to those who have sorted them and priced them, to the volunteers who have set up the hall, to those who will be providing refreshments and being here on the sale days. Finally, to those who will be helping to tidy up afterwards. Everyone's contribution is much appreciated.

Please come along, you will look for one book and find many that you want and will enjoy.

The doors are open –

Saturday 11 May                      10am – 5pm

Sunday 12 May                        1pm – 5pm

and new for this year:

Monday 13 May                      10am – 12noon

We look forward to seeing you there.

David Donald  
Holy Corner Churches Christian Aid Committee



## Eric Liddell Daffodils

In the Autumn 100 daffodil bulbs were planted at the front of the church by our gardening team. They represent 100 years since Eric Liddell won his Olympic gold medal. Lovely seasonal splash of colour.

## Lent Collection Update

The Lent collection raised £2,235. Thanks to all who contributed. There was one very generous individual donation to raise it to this excellent total. The money will shortly be sent to the Blantyre Synod in Malawi for the Orphanage run by Rose's friend Rev Annie Kapinda. The money will be used to buy basic needs for the orphans and for some families that are headed by children.

## Ukrainian Easter Egg Masterclass

I would like to tell you more about the Easter Egg masterclass which was on 30 March.

It was a Workshop for making Ukrainian traditional Easter eggs with the help of wax, candles and dyes.

It's a beautiful tradition preserved since ancient times. The process of writing Pysankas (which means painted eggs in





Ukrainian) is a kind of art therapy. There was a very pleasant atmosphere. The people were listening to Ukrainian music and having some fragrant tea.

Olha Reshetova and Marina Tril taught the participants how to create wonderful Easter eggs, even if those who had no drawing skills. Each Pysanka is unique. The art of painted eggs is a heritage from ancestors, which has a sacred meaning, depending on the ornaments you choose.



Everyone had the opportunity to make two Pysankas and tassels to use the painted eggs as a decor at home then.

The Edinburgh Spiders who organized that event are very grateful to Morningside United church for letting us use the Small Hall for conducting the masterclass. They really appreciate the congregation's continuous support and help. Thank you very much indeed.

Hannah Tekliuk

## Timetable for Ministers during May

|        |                             |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| 5 May  | Layperson Peter Ranscombe   |
| 12 May | Rev Mary Taylor             |
| 19 May | Rev Sarah Moore             |
| 26 May | Rev Sarah Moore (Communion) |

## Reading and Flower Rota for May

### Readers:

|        |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
| May 5  | Hamish McKenzie |
| May 12 | Lesley Donald   |
| May 19 | David Donald    |
| May 26 | Maggie McKenzie |

### Flower Rota:

|        |                    |
|--------|--------------------|
| May 5  | Margaret Forrester |
| May 12 | Vacant             |
| May 19 | Val Williamson     |
| May 26 | Yvonne Burnett     |

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

*Maggie McKenzie*  
261 4908

## Church Life at MUC – An Update

**Kirk Session** – Our next Kirk Session will be held on Monday 13 May in the centre Vestibule, starting at 7pm.

**Coffee Mornings** - It's May already, and this month we have three coffee mornings to look forward to. We start off on Thursday 2 May, then follow with Thursday 16 May and Thursday 30 May. As usual, you can find us in the Small Hall from 10.30am. Please join us for warm company, a warm drink and some cake.

**Edinburgh Bookshop Author Event** – On Thursday 23 May, 7pm-8.30pm we're incredibly excited to welcome master tailor and judge on the BBC's Great British Sewing Bee, Patrick Grant, as he talks about his career in the fashion industry and his new book *Less: Stop Buying So Much Rubbish. How Having Fewer, Better Things Can Make Us Happier*.

## About the book

We used to care a lot about our clothes. We didn't have many but those we had were important to us, we'd cherish them, repair them and pass them on. And making them provided fulfilling work for millions of skilled people locally. Today the average person has nearly five times as many clothes as they did just 50 years ago, last year 100 billion garments were produced worldwide, most made from oil, 30% of which were not even sold, and the equivalent of one bin lorry full of clothing is dumped in landfill or burned every single second. Our wardrobes are full to bursting with clothes we never wear so why do we keep buying more?

In this passionate and revealing book about loving clothes but despairing of a broken global system Patrick Grant considers the crisis of consumption and quality in fashion, and how we might make ourselves happier by rediscovering the joy of living with fewer, better-quality things. Weaving in his personal journey through fashion, clothing and the other everyday objects in his life this is a book that celebrates craftsmanship, making things with care, buying things with thought and valuing everything we own. It explains how rethinking our relationship with clothing could kickstart a thriving new local economy bringing prosperity and hope back to places in our country that have lost out to globalisation, offshore manufacturing and to the madness of price and quantity being the only things that matter.

**Castle Brass Concert** - Castle Brass invite you to an exciting concert of 10 part brass and percussion music. Held at 5pm, Saturday 18 May 2024. A family friendly selection of well-known arrangements and original compositions exploring a wide range of genres and styles.

Tickets available on the door Adults £10, school aged children £5, under 5s free (cash only) (Concert will last approximately 1 hour).

Castle Brass are a 10-piece brass ensemble with percussion, performing concerts and recitals in and around Edinburgh and the Lothians with both our large and small ensembles. We formed in 2013

in order to innovate the modern-day brass ensemble by providing an exciting approach to performing. Our aim is to captivate audiences with a unique and dynamic performance, playing new and original compositions and arrangements combined with the classic brass ensemble repertoire. Our concerts showcase a wide variety of styles and genres to entertain any audience.

Castle Brass brings together some of the leading brass players from the Lothians.

## **Diary for May**

|                 |                                                                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 2 May  | Tea Dance in Main Hall                                                         |
| Sunday 5 May    | 11am Worship led by Peter Ranscombe                                            |
| Saturday 11 May | Christian Aid Booksale in the Main Hall                                        |
| Sunday 12 May   | Christian Aid Booksale in the Main Hall                                        |
| Sunday 12 May   | 11am Worship led by Rev Mary Taylor                                            |
| Monday 13 May   | 7pm Kirk Session in the Vestibule                                              |
| Thursday 16 May | 10.30am Thursday coffee morning Small Hall                                     |
| Saturday 18 May | Castle Brass Concert                                                           |
| Sunday 19 May   | 11am Worship led by Rev Sarah Moore                                            |
| Sunday 26 May   | 11am Worship including the sacrament of Holy Communion led by Rev. Sarah Moore |
| Thursday 30 May | 10.30am Thursday coffee morning Small Hall                                     |

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).

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

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