



Link

*The
Magazine of*

Morningside United Church



May 2023

Dear Friends,

I hope that you had and are enjoying an uplifting Easter!

It is now six months since I became Interim Moderator at Morningside United, which has been a time of revelation, frustration, and concern. Naturally there has been a sense of uncertainty and unease in the congregation as we all accept that no matter what the future may hold it will feature some degree of change.

Following all the discerning through prayer, worship, meetings, conversations and emails, I encouraged the Kirk Session to work on a strategy so that we can begin to think about a positive way forward for MUC. From this I have formulated a document that is currently with the Kirk Session for comment. I hope that this will be approved at our next meeting on Monday 15 May so I can present this to a meeting of the congregation after worship on Sunday 28 May, which appropriately is Pentecost. If this is approved, we will have a clear way forward, which I hope you will find both encouraging and affirming.

At one of our Kirk Session meetings, I was rather concerned to hear that some people had stopped coming to Church because they had heard a rumour that MUC was closing. In all of the discussions we have had over the last six months it has become clear that no matter what direction the congregation of MUC takes, the one of closure will not feature. I therefore make an appeal to ensure that this message is clearly heard from everyone in MUC.

As we look forward with faith, here are some encouraging words from Paul;

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Romans 5:1-5 (NLT)

I look forward to leading worship in MUC on Pentecost when we will make and launch 'Pentecostalcoopers'!!

Grace and Peace,

The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)

2023 Lent Collect

This year's Lent donation raised £445 for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal, via Christian Aid and was topped up with Gift Aid. Thursday coffee mornings made a donation of £196 to the Salvation Army Gorgie Foodbank.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated money for both causes.

An Evening of Music

Tuesday 30 May at 7pm

Senior pupils from George Watson's College will showcase their talents in a varied programme of solos and ensembles, including music by Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Gilbert and Sullivan and traditional tunes from Scotland and Spain.

The performance will be in aid of the Watson's Malawi Partnership. There will be no charge for tickets, but there will be an opportunity on the night to give a donation in support of the charity.

<https://sites.google.com/view/watsonsmalawipartnership/home>

Musings from Mary Taylor, Pastoral Assistant, MUC

There are holy corners in Edinburgh and there are holy corners in London too.

On Saturday 15 April the celebrations marking the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the United Reformed Church took place. I sat outside the Methodist Central Hall reflecting that on the opposite corner was Westminster Abbey where the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6 May.

There were three parts to the URC celebration day:

1. Open Church House, Tavistock Place

240 people toured the 3 floors of the building experiencing a wide range of church life represented by different ministries, exhibitions and creative and educational opportunities for all ages. There were rooms for the Trussell Trust linked to foodbanks, Greenbelt, Commitment for Life linked to Christian Aid and Single Friendly Church.

It was really good to see all the different parts at one time in one space.

2. Walk to Westminster

Next there was the opportunity to have a 2 hour walk throughout London from Tavistock Place to Westminster. We were given carefully prepared guides full of fascinating places of church and cultural interest. Places visited included the School of Oriental and African Studies which houses the archives of the Council for World Mission, Presbyterian Foreign Missions and the London Missionary Society, Covent Gardens and St. James' Park.

3. Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration, Methodist Central Hall, London

Over 1,200 people were at this really special service including 5 from Scotland. The range of those leading worship included Rev. Dr. Tessa Robinson, Rev. Dr. John Bradbury and Rev. Fiona Bennett, Augustine United Church, Edinburgh. Fiona is the Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church this year.

Worship included and reflected participation of all generations within the URC both lay and ordained including Church Related Community leaders of the URC Youth Assembly.

There is an opportunity to watch this colourful, joyful and thought-provoking service on the URC website www.urb.org.uk

Eric Liddell peace garden

The Kirk Session agreed to a proposal that as part of the Eric Liddell 100 celebrations, Morningside United Church is going to try to create a peace garden in the small garden space outside the hall. If anyone is interested and would like to be involved with this in any way, please come and speak to me.

Holy Corner Booksale

Don't forget that this month the Christian Aid Book Sale is on at MUC, in the Main Hall. You can enter from Bruntsfield Place.

There are so many people who have helped to arrange this event, from those who have kindly donated books, to those that have sorted through each one, the volunteers who set up the hall, those that will be providing refreshments and working on the day. And finally, those who will be tidying up afterwards. Everyone's contribution is so appreciated.

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

The doors will open:

Saturday 13 May 10am – 5pm

Sunday 14 May 1pm – 5pm

We look forward to seeing you there!

David Donald



Holy Corner Booksale

COLLECTIBLE BOOKS
SCOTTISH ART
FICTION CHILDREN'S
HISTORY AND OTHERS

Saturday 13 May 10 – 5
Sunday 14 May 1 – 5



Morningside United Church, Holy Corner, EH10 4DJ. In Main Hall - enter from Bruntsfield Place

In aid of Christian Aid: Charity No. SC039150

Reading and Flower Rota for April

Readers:

Sunday 7 May	Martin Wagner
Sunday 14 May	at Marchmont St Giles
Sunday 21 May	Pam Brindley
Sunday 28 May	Mary Nisbet

Flowers:

Sunday 7 May	Margaret Forrester
Sunday 14 May	at Marchmont St Giles
Sunday 21 May	Vacant
Sunday 28 May	Hannah Tekliuk

Many thanks to all the people who have volunteered to do the Readings for our services and, those who have provided the beautiful flowers that we are able to have around the Church.

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

A Blessing

May love and laughter light your days,
and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours,
wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world
with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons,
bring the best to you and yours.

Concerts at MUC

Over the last month and into May we seem to be 'concert central', with a number of music events taking place. It has been so wonderful to hear the variety of music that has been available.

As well as the regular Wednesday Lunchtime Napier Student concerts, we have just had concerts from the Napier Choir, Ladies No 1 Accordion Orchestra and Lothian Gaelic Choir. This month we will have a Napier Honours Student Recital on 5 May and a George Watson's College Concert on 30 May fundraising for projects in Malawi.

Please do come along, take a break from the hustle and bustle of life, and enjoy some amazing performances.

Easter



Having decorated our church, some of our Easter features travelled onwards.

The Easter egg tree made by Elyssa and Otilie Watson went to Chamberlain Road Nursing Home, and the candle went to Christ Church for their Holy Saturday Service. Thanks to Rev Mary Taylor for taking them.



Our Romanian Orthodox friends celebrate Easter a week after us. Whilst the Ukrainian netting group had a craft master class in egg decorating in the small hall, and the Romanian Orthodox congregation also painted eggs, and also held a Holy Saturday vigil until 1am, which many in the community attended.

Church Life at MUC – An Update

Coffee Mornings – Our fortnightly coffee mornings continue in the Small Hall from 10.30 am - noon. We have one this Thursday 8 May, and then Thursday 18 May and Thursday 1 June.

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

Napier Honours Student Recital – as briefly mentioned, this concert is taking place on Friday 5 May starting at 7.30pm. You can get tickets at the door, which cost £3.

Afternoon Communion Service - There will be an afternoon communion service on Tuesday 9 May at 2.30 pm. Following this, refreshments will be served.

Although this service is intended for those members who find it difficult to attend morning worship, all are welcome. We hope some residents from Chamberlain Care Home and Morlich House will join us.

Timetable for Ministers during May

7 May – Rev Mary Taylor

14 May – at Marchmont St Giles

21 May – Rev Nick Brindley

28 May – Rev David Scott

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.

Photography:
Front page: Yvonne Burnett

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