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*The
Magazine of*

Morningside United Church



November 2023

Dear Friends,

Here is a passage from the Old Testament book of Judges (18:3-6) as it is found in The Message:

They went into the hill country of Ephraim and got as far as the house of Micah. They camped there for the night. As they neared Micah's house, they recognised the voice of the young Levite. They went over and said to him, "How on earth did you get here? What's going on? What are you doing here?"

He said, "One thing led to another: Micah hired me and I'm now his priest."

They said, "Oh, good—inquire of God for us. Find out whether our mission will be a success."

The priest said, "Go assured. God's looking out for you all the way."

At the Congregational Meeting held on 8 October the appointment of The Revd Sarah Moore as a Transitional Minister in MUC on a 60% part time basis from 1 November 2023 was unanimously accepted. This will initially be until December 2024 although it is hoped that following an application to the United Reformed Church an extension will be granted.

As Sarah will be focussing on aspects of transition and leading worship in MUC, alongside other responsibilities in the Synod and being Clerk to the URC General Assembly, The Revd Mary Taylor will continue as pastoral assistant.

I hope no one is asking the same questions of Sarah that were asked of the young Levite Priest in these few verses from Judges. In the appointment of a transitional minister one thing has certainly led to another, but only because over the last twelve months we have worked together as a congregation that has been led by the Kirk Session. Importantly, MUC embraced a process of discernment that will continue under Sarah's ministry.

Perhaps the people's response to the newly appointed priest reflects where you are as the journey MUC travels prepares to enter a new phase, particularly as this is one of transitional ministry. If so, find hope and comfort in the priest's response; "Go assured. God's looking out for you all the way."

To officially recognise the appointment of The Revd Sarah Moore as Transitional Minister in Morningside United, a Service of Introduction will be held at 7pm on Monday 27 November 2023. This service will be led jointly by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland's Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian and the Moderator of the United Reformed Church's National Synod of Scotland. All members and friends of MUC are invited to attend this special service.

A consequence of Sarah's appointment is that I now stand down as Interim Moderator. It has been an interesting year in which I have enjoyed the opportunity to once again be part of a Church of Scotland and United Reformed Church Local Ecumenical Partnership. No matter what path MUC takes going forward, I hope and pray that we can continue to build on the relationships that have developed with the other United Reformed Churches in Edinburgh.

Grace and Peace,

The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)

Choir

We are very proud of our Choir, which performs on occasional Sundays at the 11am Morning Service.

We are always looking for new voices! We meet for a 1 hour rehearsal on Wednesdays at 5:30pm in the Small Hall. Please come along and join us.

Musings from Mary Taylor, Pastoral Assistant, MUC

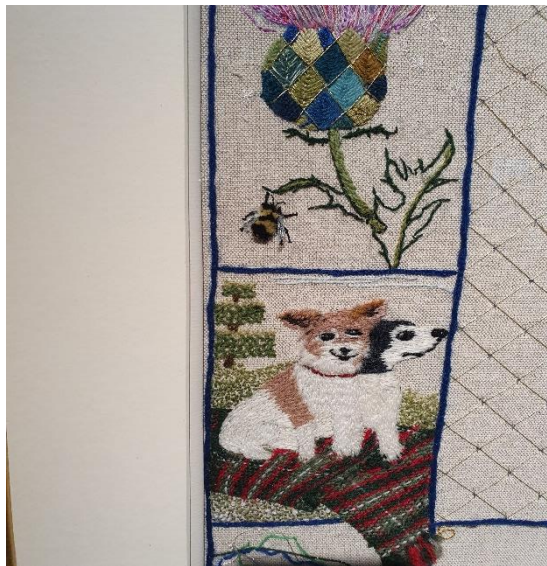
The Great Tapestry of Scotland

The Royal Commemorative Panel is now out on display.

The Great Tapestry of Scotland welcomed His Majesty King Charles 111 and Queen Camilla on 6 July 2023. Their visit marked the 10th Anniversary of the completion of the 160 panels that make up the Great Tapestry of Scotland.

To mark the occasion, a new commemorative panel was created to celebrate the King and Queen's visit. Her Majesty Queen Camilla added stitches to the collars of the two Jack Russells, who depict her own rescue dogs, Beth and Bluebell.

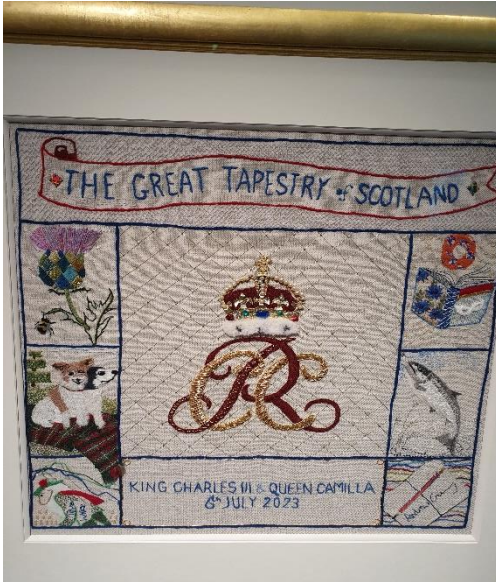
Drawn by Tapestry Artist Andrew Crummy and stitched by Dorie Wilkie, Head Stitcher of the Great Tapestry of Scotland, the panel will complement the existing 13 Royal panels.



The Thistle, Scotland's national flower has been an important symbol of Scottish heraldry for over 500 years.

Bees represent the Stitchers of the Tapestry, they typically symbolize focus, hard work, teamwork, generosity and prosperity due to their natural behaviours and contributions.

Beth and Bluebell are depicted sitting on a tartan rug waiting for her Majesty to return from her Royal duties.



The double Royal Cypher of King Charles & Queen Camilla created with a mixed media worked with crewel wools, stranded cottons with “jewels”, real pearls and gold kid leather added.

The logo of The Royal Osteoporosis Society of which Her Majesty first became President in 2001.

A keen gardener, the flowers represent The Queen’s passion for nature.

The Leaping Salmon represents His Majesty’s passion for fishing.

Signature of Tapestry artist Andrew Crummy with his pencil on a sketch book resting on the threads of the staircase artwork in the visitor centre which carries all 1,000 names of the Stitchers of the Great Tapestry of Scotland.

Mary Taylor
(Pastoral Assistant)

A Prayer for the Middle East from Christian Aid

God hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.

May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.

We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.

God may the injured and distressed know your healing peace.

May the powerful and decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.

We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.

May the clamour of violence cease,

Replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares,

God, in your name

Amen

A message from Rev Sarah...

This week I attended a 'seasonal yoga' class. The instructor began by talking about how the class had for the last few months followed a practice that fitted in with the summer and would from that day for the next while use an autumn theme instead. We were told as attendees that the new practice would particularly focus on warming movements that are good for the lungs and large intestine and would ward off damp. Furthermore damp foods should be avoided in the autumn, which are most white foods although I have to confess that I am not one to enjoy eating dry things - although some dry drinks are a different matter! - so was a bit lost exactly what that means in practice.

Yoga has become an important part of my routine to keep myself mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy. At different times each of those three come to be of more and less significance and I do notice if the time stretches longer than I might like between classes in each of those areas.

I know that there are yoga classes and groups that meet in the halls at MUC and perhaps I'll be able to join one or some of those classes depending on how their timetable fits into my diary. I'm also aware that yoga is an activity that some Christian people are nervous about since its origins in south Asia have led some folk to question how it fits into the teachings of Christ and the Church. All I can speak of from my own experience is to witness that somehow these actions around breathing, movement and quietening the mind have brought me closer to God in recent times than much else.

So why am I rambling on about yoga?! Because I have found that a discipline incorporating mental, physical and spiritual stretching works for me. It works too for a lot of other people but significantly not for everyone. I am wondering what might work for the community at Morningside United Church as we discern what are our next steps together in mission and ministry? Some broad shapes are known and have been discerned over the last few months but where are we being called to place our feet next in the immediate future?

Revd Sarah Moore

Joan Crockett

Miss Joan Hastings Crockett

Joan Crockett was born in Edinburgh on 14 July 1930 and died on 27 September 2023, aged 93 years.

She lived in Corstorphine in the family home and then moved to Abbotsford Court, Colinton Road. Joan lived independently until admitted to the Royal Infirmary in January 2021 after a fall and then transferred to the Manor Care Home in April 2021.

Joan was educated at Mary Erskine School for Girls, here in Edinburgh.

She was a teacher in Clermiston Primary School from 1952 until 1975, she then worked for the Schools Audiology Service, testing children's hearing until retirement.

Joan attended Corstorphine: St Ninian's Parish Church (baptised 1930, profession of faith 1948) until the 1990s when she transferred membership to Morningside United Church. She enjoyed participating in the church holidays to France organised by Rev John Smith. Joan also enjoyed the manse lunches cooked by Rev Steven Manders.

Joan Crockett was a regular attendee to the church until walking difficulties a few years ago. Maggie McKenzie was her pastoral visitor.

Joan was a very keen bridge player.

In earlier years she travelled throughout the United Kingdom with friends and in later years she journeyed to many places in the world including USA and New Zealand. Joan also enjoyed a visit to Wigtown for the launch of the reprinting of the "kailyard" novels by Rev SR C Crockett to whom she was related.

In May we were delighted to see Joan in MUC at the afternoon communion and tea and to see her chatting to her friend, Flora Newlands from Morlich. We send deep sympathy and prayers from MUC to Joan's closest relations who were her cousins, Charlotte and Kathleen and her cousins' families and to all her friends.

During this season of remembrance, we remember all those who have recently been bereaved.

Ukrainian Bake Sale

On Saturday 30 September a Bake Sale was held here at Morningside United Church. It was a great success, and £584.95 was raised for camouflage nets. The money raised will help to buy more base netting and dyes for the cloth. So far, 120 nets have already been made, sized 5m x 5m and many more will continue to be made to save lives in Ukraine.



We cannot thank the congregation and the church enough for allowing us to use the room for netting and helping with the Bake Sale. Some people from church baked pastries, some came to buy them, and Yvonne helped to organise and conduct everything. Some of those people who couldn't come donated some funds. We really appreciate everyone's kind help.

Edinburgh Spiders

Walking the Camino de Santiago

Some years ago, I received a Christmas present of John Brierley's book, A pilgrim's guide to the Camino de Santiago. Although I just dipped into it and set it aside, the seed was sown in my mind. Perhaps I should have an adventure which would take me out of my comfort zone.

The Camino Francés is a 790 km pilgrimage route from the town of St Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. It has been followed by pilgrims for more than ten centuries.

"Travel alone if at all possible", I remembered reading and so in August 2023 with some trepidation and a disconcertingly small rucksack, I found myself on a train from Bayonne to St Jean Pied de Port to begin my pilgrimage.

On arrival, I headed for the Pilgrim Welcome Office where I received my Credencial del Peregrino (pilgrim's passport) and then set off to find my albergue (hostel for pilgrims).

This was a foretaste of what was to come. Accommodation was clean but basic. I was presented with a paper sheet and pillowslip and would be sleeping in a bunk bed in a mixed dormitory.

Over supper that evening I met many pilgrims; it was like a United Nations meeting. USA, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Germany were all represented and in addition, there was a charming young English girl and a delightful young Irishman.

"Lights out at 10pm" we were told. "No alarm clocks please and you will get woken by angels". Well, that will be interesting I thought to myself as I lay in my bunk listening to some ferocious snoring! However, we did indeed get woken by hauntingly beautiful music.

Slightly sleep deprived, I set off at daybreak to cross the Pyrenees. I imagined fantastic scenery and towering peaks, but instead the heavens opened, the mist came down, the temperature plummeted, and my fingers became completely numb. This is like being in the

Highlands, I reassured myself as I kept a beady eye on the path and looked out for the familiar yellow arrows which confirm one is heading in the right direction.

One day merged into another, my walking companions changed and sometimes I walked alone. It was wonderfully liberating to walk at one's own pace with no time constraints, to have time to reflect and just live in the moment.

In many ways, the pilgrimage was a microcosm of life with good times and challenging times. The walking could be exciting, uplifting, a bit humdrum, concerning (as during a dramatic electric storm that lasted for hours) and taxing as one tried to either ignore the pain of the dreaded blisters or reluctantly acknowledge that one needed to rest for the day.

My walk of a little over two weeks passed all too quickly but I hope to resume my pilgrimage in the spring and reach Santiago de Compostela.

And yes, I do believe I met an angel on my travels but that is a story for another day.

Elizabeth MacGregor

Timetable for Ministers during November

5 November	Rev Bill Brown
12 November	Layperson Peter Ranscombe
19 November	Rev Nick Brindley
26 November	Rev Mary Taylor

Eric Liddell 100

Recipes are being collected for the Eric Liddell 100 recipe book. Whether it be a family favourite, or one you've recently found that was a big hit, please speak to Yvonne Burnett or Mary Taylor if you would like to contribute a recipe.

Reading and Flower Rota for October

Readers:

5 November	Judy Wagner
12 November	Rose Kambanga
19 November	Pam Brindley
26 November	Vacant

Flower Rota:

5 November	Judy Wagner
12 November	Jennifer Gruber
19 November	Daphne Paton
26 November	Maggie McKenzie

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

Maggie McKenzie
261 4908

Harvest Thanksgiving

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and brought a variety of nonperishable goods which were donated and delivered to the Salvation Army Foodbank.



Our thanks also to Elizabeth MacGregor for her display of a variety of her homegrown vegetables.

A further donation to the Salvation Army Foodbank was a cheque for £515.65. This represented the total in donations from our fortnightly Thursday coffee mornings.



Thank you to our church members , Chamberlain Care Home , the yoga group and visitors who attend the coffee mornings.

When delivering the goods I had a tour of the Foodbank which was most interesting and now used by many more people.

Christmas Tree

We expect this year's Christmas tree to be delivered at the end of November and would be delighted if anyone would like to come along to help to decorate it probably. We're currently planning the morning Friday 1 December, but will keep you updated closer to the time.

Events organised by the Ukrainian Community

Over the last few months, we have been happy to support a number of events organised by the Ukrainian community. As well as the recent bake sale, which you can read about in this month's magazine, there was an earlier sale that raised £157 for the Edinburgh Spiders.

Some larger events have also taken place. Bohdan Kramar, a young 'arts inpressario', explains: "Shevchenkophilia is a creative project aimed at uniting Ukrainians abroad, named after a well-known poet. We organise creative projects in support of Ukraine and charity events in Scotland, such as: exhibitions, art workshops, concerts, video projects."

In June, a poetry event, accompanied by borshch (beetroot soup) was held in the MUC hall and raised £600. Bohdan advises the money from this was sent to the Hospitallers, a Ukrainian volunteer medical battalion, that provides first aid and evacuates wounded Ukrainian soldiers from the war zone.

Stand-up Ukrainian comedian Vasyl Baidak performed his act early on in September. It was a resounding success. The event raised £5,100. It was great to see the Ukrainian community filling our hall and enjoying themselves.



In October there was a wonderful concert in the sanctuary by Ukrainian singer and bandura player Marina Krut'. It was very well received and hopefully managed to raise much needed support.

We look forward to more events in the coming months.

Church Life at MUC – An Update

Coffee Mornings – Dates to go in your diary for this month are Thursday 9 November and Thursday 23 November from 10.30am to 12 noon in the Small Hall. All are welcome to join us to enjoy some chat, some tea or coffee and maybe even some wonderful home baking.

Brass Tracks – Advanced notice that Brass Tracks band will be returning this year for a morning service during Advent on Sunday 10 December. We welcomed them last year and they were a great success. More information about the event will be following shortly.

Edinburgh Napier Lunchtime Concerts – We have already had the first of three lunchtime concerts held by Edinburgh Napier University. It was well attended with many people stopping by to appreciate the wonderful music performed by Napier University music students. The remaining concerts will be held on Wednesday 15 November and Wednesday 22 November, 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.

Kirk Session – This will take place on Monday 13 November in the Vestibule.

A Poem for November

Be present

Let the day flow with grace

Expect joy. Be positive.

Serve with compassion.

Speak only kindness.

Impart only love.

Never forget you are not alone.

Give thanks for everything.

See goodness in others.

Mary Davis

A Prayer for Remembrance

Ever-living God,

We remember those whom you have

gathered from the storm of war

into the peace of your presence;

may that same peace calm our fears,

bring justice to all peoples

and establish harmony among the nations,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



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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