



Link

*The
Magazine of*

Morningside United Church



October 2023

Dear Friends,

How did we get to October?

It has been an eventful twelve months in Morningside United as we have navigated our way through ministerial vacancy in a local ecumenical partnership at a time of challenge and change in both the Church of Scotland and United Reformed Church. The Kirk Session and attendees at Congregational Gatherings have wrestled with several questions and dilemmas, most of which are still unanswered and unresolved. However, it has and continues to be a process of discernment that has brought everyone in Morningside United closer together by identifying the opportunities God is presenting and calling us to respond to.

On Sunday 8 October The Revd Sarah Moore will lead worship at what will be a Service of Harvest Thanksgiving. Following the service there will be a light lunch before a Congregational Meeting, which will be chaired by The Revd Paul Whittle, URC Moderator of the National Synod of Scotland. The meeting will be asked to accept the appointment of Sarah as a Transitional Minister in MUC on a 60% part time basis from 1 November 2023 in accordance with terms agreed by the Kirk Session.

Sarah, a URC minister, is currently the Transition Champion in our Synod, which is a Special Category Ministry post with a fixed term that ends in December 2024. The Synod had applied to the URC to have the post renewed for a further five years, with part of this being specific ministry in MUC. Surprisingly and unfortunately this application was rejected by the Accreditations Committee with several reasons being given. However, the Synod is of the opinion that the application was not fully understood and therefore intends to reapply in March 2024. In terms of MUC and Sarah, this means less certainty than was hoped when the proposal was being considered over the summer, however, I would encourage the meeting on 8 October to accept the appointment as we have it.

Presbytery has been advised of the potential appointment to MUC by the URC and if accepted by the Congregational Meeting, a 'Service of Introduction' will be arranged to take place in November.

I am delighted to report that the Kirk Session has agreed to maintain the employment of a part-time pastoral assistant, a post that we established during the vacancy and has been held by The Revd Mary Taylor. Mary has done a tremendous amount of work in this role, which in addition to pastoral support has included new initiatives, particularly in connection with the Eric Liddell 100 project. I would like to thank Mary for all she has done as pastoral assistant in MUC, a position she is willing to continue with.

As we go forward, I would also like to thank everyone that has contributed to MUC in any way over the last year, whether that be large or small. However, particular acknowledgement should be given to Brigitte Harris, whose passion and musical skill enhances our worship and fellowship, as well as the members of the Kirk Session whose commitment has contributed to where we now are.

We have an opportunity in MUC and the possibility of beginning a new chapter in the rich history of this congregation, which has meant so much to so many over the years. As you consider this and where you sit within MUC as member or friend, reflect on these words of Paul.

*Now there are varieties of gifts,
but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services,
but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.*

1st Corinthians 12:4-6 (NRSV)

Grace and Peace,

The Revd David M Scott, BSc BD(Min)

Afternoon Communion Service

On Tuesday 10 October we will be having another afternoon communion service at 2.30 pm, after which refreshments will be served.

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

Musings from Mary Taylor, Pastoral Assistant, MUC

Eric Liddell 100 Parliamentary Reception

On Wednesday 20 September the Eric Liddell 100 Parliamentary Reception sponsored by Daniel Johnston MSP was held. It was a chance to hear about the Eric Liddell 100's plans to mark the centenary of Eric's historic success at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris, and learn more about his life, values and why his story is still relevant today. As pastoral assistant in Morningside United Church I was privileged to be invited to such an interesting and enjoyable reception and the Eric Liddell peace garden was kindly mentioned by John MacMillan, CEO.

Eric Liddell 100 peace garden

The Eric Liddell peace garden continues to develop thanks to the combined efforts of Eric Liddell Community and Morningside United Church.

We are planning to plant golden bulbs in the shape of E L 100 in October, financial and planting help welcomed.

Fi Brown, horticulturalist from Eric Liddell Community sent me this and so I share it now in the Link.

When You Pray

When you pray, be like the mountain
In stillness, in silence;
Thoughts rooted in eternity,
Do nothing; Just sit, just be;
And you will harvest the fruit of your prayer.

When you pray, be like the flower
Reaching up to the sun;
Straight-stemmed like a column.
Be open, ready to accept all things without fear
And you will not lack light on your way.

When you pray , be like the ocean
With stillness in its depths
The waves ebbing and flowing.
Have calm in your heart,
And evil thoughts will flee on their own accord.

When you pray, remember the breath
That made us human beings –
From God it comes; to God it returns.
Blend the Word and prayer with the flow of your life, and nothing
Will come between you and the Giver of Life.

When you pray, be like the bird,
Endlessly singing before the Creator
Its song rising like incense.
Pray like the turtle dove,
And you will never lose heart.

When you pray, say
Creator God in heaven,
Holy is your name.
May your reign come on earth
As it is in heaven.
Give us today the bread we need.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive others.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from all evil.
O Holy Spirit, inspire us with the wonder and awe at the mystery
Of your presence. Confirm us in your wisdom in times of
Confusion. Grant us discerning hearts in making decisions.

(St. Seraphim of Sarov)

Mary Taylor
(Pastoral Assistant)

“Come and be..” was a lovely day on Holy Island earlier this month organized by Northern Synod URC. It was a very good mixture of worship, awareness trails and reflective time.



Newsletter from St. Cuthbert’s Centre, The United Reformed Church on Holy Island:

“Firstly, and most importantly, many of you will already be aware, but we have to share the sad news that Rachel Poolman has had to retire early from her ministry at St. Cuthbert’s due to her ongoing ill health. She retired at the end of June and is currently packing up and awaiting news that her new “retired minister’s house” is ready for her to move. We will miss Rachel enormously and we know that our many friends will do so too. We all wish her many blessings and pray that her health improves and she finds new ways to use her considerable talents for God’s Kingdom in her retirement from ministry.

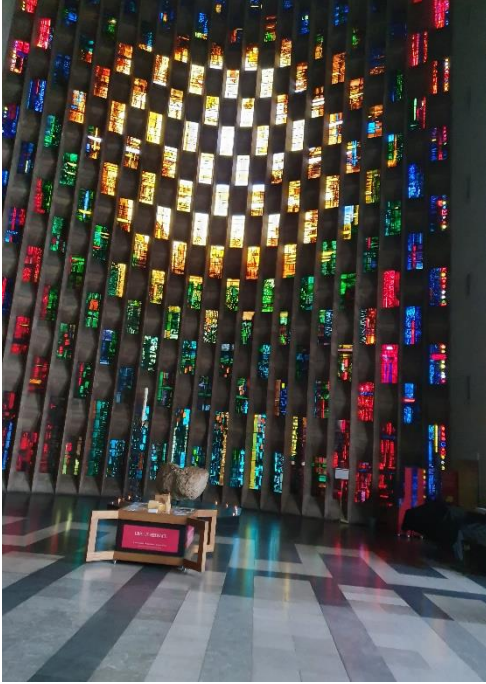
While, in many ways it has been a year of uncertainties and stresses for us at St. Cuthbert’s, it has also been a year when we have had fun trying out some new ideas. We launched our first series of Events based at the Centre and these have generally been successful. All of this year’s Artists in Residence agreed to run a workshop day during their exhibition week. While some were bettered attended than others, we are learning as we go as to what people are interested in and might like to try.”

Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

*Alison, Ann, Fliss, Jean, Lucy, Patrick and Sheila
The Management Group for St. Cuthbert’s Centre, Holy Island*

The Coventry Cathedral

The Coventry Cathedral Eucharist on Community of the Cross of Nails



Sunday took place on Sunday 24 September 2023. The Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) is a Christian network of over 250 churches, schools, chaplaincies and retreat centres who, drawn together by the story of Coventry Cathedral, share a common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation through;

- Healing the wounds of history
- Learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity
- Building a culture of justice and peace

Many contemporary conflicts have deep roots in past wrongs. Our CCN Partners nurture real hope amongst hurting people and communities.

Our present requires new patterns of community, wherein we learn how to live together with deep differences and celebrate the rich diversity that God has created in humanity.

It was so good to meet and share with the lovely visitors from five churches in the city of Hamburg who stayed on a CCN pilgrimage in Coventry during September.

Greetings to everyone at Morningside United Church!

Hopefully most folk are now aware that I will be leading worship on Sunday 8 October which will be followed by a light lunch and a congregational meeting where members of the congregation will be invited to confirm my appointment by the URC National Synod of Scotland as Transition Minister at Morningside United.

To introduce myself; I have been ordained as a Minister in the United Reformed Church for almost 19 years serving initially as a local church minister in Darwen, Lancashire. I served three congregations in what the URC describes as a group pastorate within a wider ecumenical group with Church of England and Methodist congregations. I also served as URC Ecumenical Officer for Lancashire during most of that period. Much of that ministry was about enabling folk to grow in their discipleship and spirituality and to develop the life of each congregation.

Following that I was called to serve as Area President for the United Reformed Church in the ecumenical county of Cumbria in North West England. This involved developing a covenant relationship with the Church of England, Methodist Church, and the Salvation Army with further close working with other denominations including the Church of Scotland. This work centred on making ecumenical partnerships work making a tangible difference in the ministry and mission of those involved at both county and local levels of church life.

I have served in Scotland working as part of the synod team at the National Synod of Scotland since January 2020. My role is promoting and enabling transition ministry helping local congregations and the people who lead them develop and take next steps in mission and ministry. My longest running piece of work to date has been with folk in Aberdeen with shorter term pieces of work with other congregations too.

The United Reformed Church expects all its ministers to take part in the running of the wider denomination. While folk will take on bigger and smaller roles at different times in their ministries everyone is invited to do something. My current roles for the wider URC are as its representative to the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (this is a weeklong commitment every two years), and as Assistant Clerk and Clerk Elect of the URC's General Assembly. Like the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland this is an annual event although unlike the Kirk the Clerk role is something that is usually done alongside another ministry as much of the work within the Principal Clerk's role is carried out by other URC office holders.

I was born and grew up in London and read for my first degree (in Theology and Religious Studies) at what was then the Roehampton Institute before training for ministry at Westminster College, Cambridge, one of the URC's training colleges gaining a Masters degree in Pastoral Theology. Two degrees weren't enough, so I have also studied part time for a foundation degree in Counselling and an Open University degree in Law since ordination!

I look forward to hopefully working with you all at Morningside United Church as you work your way through next steps in your own congregational life; discern your place in partnership with both the Church of Scotland and its Presbytery plans, and with other United Reformed Church congregations in the Edinburgh area; and with Napier University and the Eric Liddell Centre. These are interesting times to be Christian disciples as we all work out what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ today and in the immediate future.

I'm excited to work with Morningside United Church in ministry and mission together.

Peace and blessings.

Revd Sarah Moore B.A. (Hons.), M.A., Fd.A., LL.B (Hons.)

Advance notice

We will be having a congregational meeting, with lunch provided, on Sunday 8 October after the service. Rev Sarah Moore, who we hope will become our new part time minister, will lead the service on that day. (We expect by that time it will be confirmed if the appointment can go ahead).

Reading and Flower Rota for October

Readers:

1 October	David Donald
8 October	Keith Wilson
15 October	Lesley Donald
22 October	Mary Nisbet
29 October	Elizabeth MacGregor

Flower Rota:

1 October	Daphne Paton
8 October	Helen Willoughby
15 October	Janet Wightman
22 October	Fiona Purves
29 October	Vacant

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

Maggie McKenzie
261 4908

Timetable for Ministers during October

8 October	– Rev Sarah Moore
15 October	– Lay Preacher Peter Ranscombe
22 October	– Rev Paul Whittle
29 October	– Right Rev Fiona Bennett

Donations

Over the last few months, we have been so fortunate to have been given donations of items related to MUC from members who have recently died. The first donation came a little while ago from Max Allan just before he passed away, the other from a relative of Alistair Brownlie. Both Max and Alistair had a long connection to MUC and an interest in historical records. Alistair Brownlie's items also included some relating to North Morningside Church. A start has been made on sorting these out and listing them.



If you would like to know more about what is there, please ask Yvonne, Mary or Lesley.

Church Life at MUC – An Update

Coffee Mornings – Dates to go in your diary for this month are Thursday 12 October and Thursday 26 October 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.

Edinburgh Women's Book Festival – On the evening of 6 October, and all-day 7 October The Edinburgh Women's Fiction Festival will be being held here at MUC. It is a new literary festival celebrating writing for, by, and about women. It is an inclusive event and welcomes everyone who finds joy in reading women's stories - commercial, romance, historical, literary, book club and beyond.

Edinburgh Napier Lunchtime Concerts – Edinburgh Napier University are holding 3 lunchtime concerts again this year. They were such a success last year, if you missed out then, please come along and enjoy the music. The concerts will be performed by Napier University music students. They will be held on Wednesday 26 October, 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, so please come along and take a short time out of your day to sit, listen and relax.

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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