



A guid new year to ane an' a'  
An' mony may ye see,  
An' during a' the years to come,  
O happy may ye be.  
An' may ye ne'er hae cause to mourn,  
To sigh or shed a tear;  
To ane an'a baith great an' sma'  
A hearty guid New year.

**January 2010**

# the LINK

The magazine of Morningside United Church in Edinburgh

On behalf of all  
your friends in  
MUC, a very  
happy, blessed  
and fulfilled  
2010.!

## SCENES OF CHRISTMAS PAST....

parties...nativities...soloists....and more





2010

## - WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR?

Dear Friend

In Greek mythology, Pandora was the first woman. In an interesting parallel with the Judaeo-Christian Eve she did something she wasn't meant to. (If Christine were here she would be telling me that the formation of those stories was highly political - and, of course, she is right.) Anyway, Pandora opened a box and she let out all the evils of the world. Realising what was happening she quickly closed it again. But all had escaped, bar one.

The creature left behind was Elpis - Hope! Apparently, the gods considered hope to be as dangerous as all the world's evils. But without hope to accompany all their troubles, humanity was filled with despair. It was a great relief when Pandora decided to open the box and let out hope as well. It may be worthy to note that in the story, hope is represented as weakly leaving the box but is in effect far more potent than any of the major evils. So this was an act which has been interpreted as good or bad, depending. Nietzsche claimed that hope was the worst curse of the Greek gods - because it kept us in torment thinking things might get better!

It is the time of year for taking stock - looking back and forward. And it is true in the human way of things that we can look back with regret or guilt, but most often - even against the odds - look forward with hope.

So sometimes our New Year hopes are along the lines of a vague sort of talisman that life will be good to us.

But Christian hope differs from New Year hope in an important way. Christian hope is in the present. That is the biblical record - maybe most strikingly in the letters of Paul. "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). Far from being a simple wish for the future with no guarantee that it will come about, Christian hope is the presence of God in the Holy Spirit. Here! Now!

So if New Year fills you with feelings of ambivalence, know this. That the hope of God is more than enough to celebrate the best and overcome the worst.

Best wishes for 2010.



*..if New Year fills you with feelings of ambivalence*

*Jahn*

## Dry Rot

The term “Dry Rot” refers to damage inflicted by *Serpula lacrymans* - a species of fungus which causes brown rot decay. It removes the cellulose out of timber and can cause instability and collapse in houses, and other wooden structures.

The term is a somewhat misleading misnomer as dry rot requires an elevated moisture content to initiate an attack on timber (28–30%). Once established, the fungi can remain active in timber with a moisture content of more than 30%. The fungus makes its way through stonework, looking for wood to attack.

And we have it!

A loose coat hanger rail in the vestry turned out to be an indicator of a significant growth of dry rot in the wall between the toilet and the rear corridor. All was quickly stripped out, and - as is usually the case - the fungus had spread further than initially thought. But now we appear to have reached the extent of the infection at ground floor level. All the plaster and timber has been removed, holes drilled through brick and stonework, and a fungicide treatment applied. However, there is some evidence that what we can see has spread downwards from the flat above, and as soon as the holiday is past Anne and Cameron will be moving out for a few days to allow us to strip out the bathroom and lift the floor.



An example of Dry Rot

Then restitution will have to take place - probably a new bathroom, and certainly decoration in all the places affected. The halls have been largely out of commission in order to reduce the risk of spreading spores while the treatment is carried out. We hope that the building will be returned to full operation by the end of January.

How much will all this cost? It would be imprudent to be too sure at this stage until we see exactly what is happening upstairs. But our present hope is that the overall cost, including “making good” will be contained in the region of £20-25,000. This is better than it might have been - but is nevertheless a blow to our hopes of weathering the financial storms we have been experiencing.

If you feel you are able to help a little bit, we would, of course, be most grateful. And any donation could be made marked “Dry Rot repairs” either through the collection or to Bill McLeish or any member of the Finance Team. (Please remember that if you are registered for Gift Aid that will “grow” your donation automatically.)



## The Church School Christmas Party

...and yes, a very good time was had by all. Santa paid a visit, and spent a good while with the children - we wonder whether Rudolf, etc, got a parking ticket. He told them all about his home life with Mrs Claus. One young man rushed home to report to his mum - *“It was the REAL Santa Claus! You know sometimes it’s just a man dressed up in a costume. But this was the REAL one!”*

### Statistics CAN be interesting!

Did you know that...

- 555 students live in our parish
- and 487 elderly people?



Of course, the numbers coming into MUC include people from outside our parish area - but it is interesting to see how those numbers relate anyway.

Age	Living in parish	Attending MUC on average Sunday
0-16 years	296	16
17-30 years	831	15
31-60 years	897	30
61+ years	566	44



## ...and there's more

30% of our parish claims to belong to the Church of Scotland - that is 776 people. 22% say they belong to other Christian Churches (572). 2.1% are Muslim. 3.2% to other religions. And 43% (1,106) to have no religion at all, or declined to answer.

64% of our parish are white Scottish, 31.3% are other white, 2.2% are South Asian, 1.2% are Chinese, 0.4% are black, and 1.2% other.

Within our parish there were 91 cases of crime reported to the police in a year, 1 hospital drug admission and 11 hospital alcohol admissions. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation Ranking assesses each area on a scale of 1-20 - with 20 being the top 5% in lack of deprivation. Our parish scores 19.

There are 1,124 dwelling houses - 81% of them are owner occupied, and 83% of them are flats. The biggest percentage (29%) are to be found in Council Tax Band "E", while across the city the majority is in Band "B".

These figures taken from the National Census and Local Authority figures, along with church statistics, formed the basis for a visit to MUC from the "Unless the Lord builds the house" team from Presbytery.

As a congregation, our age profile is much better than many - but it is worth noting while in our parish 22% of the population are over 61, nevertheless in MUC 44% of the membership are over 61. And while outside we find 32% of folk are aged 31-60, within the congregation the percentage is 11%. This means that our congregation is not reflecting the profile of the community - but this is hardly a surprise.

---

Please note that the images on these pages are reproduced with full parental permission in line with our Safeguarding Policy.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NICK!

*The following is an extract from an e-mail from Principal Jack Dyce.*

The Assessment Board has confirmed Dr. Nick Brindley's candidacy as an ordinand to prepare for the Ministry of Word and Sacraments of the United Reformed Church.

Nick is a member of Morningside United Church, Edinburgh.

He has a significant prior academic career in philosophy and social and political thought, to PhD level. In recent times, he has had a career in the banking industry.

He has begun already the graduate diploma in theology and religious studies at Edinburgh University and the intention is that he would follow this with the MTh in Ministry degree. He has also become a familiar participant in the college's life. His Education for Ministry 1 period will begin formally in January 2010 and continue for two and a half years.

We are delighted at the decision of the Board and welcome him to the life of synod and college in his new role.

---

## OPPORTUNITIES from the Church of Scotland

The first step for all potential ministry candidates is an Enquirer's Conference. The next one will be held at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan, from the evening of Friday 5th February to 6th February 2010.

There are 3 Leadership Development conferences/forums coming up

- \* Emerging Eldership, 23rd January 2010; 10am - 1pm Renfield Church Centre, Glasgow
- \* Leadership Forums, 6th March 2010; 0930 - 1600 Premier Inn, Edinburgh "What should leadership look like for the church in 21st century Scotland?"
- \* Bereavement Visiting and Funerals, 23-25th April 2010; Carberry

Please contact Jennifer Braithwaite for details.



*From scenes like these, old Scotia's grandeur springs  
That makes her lov'd at home, rever'd abroad:  
Princes and lords are but the breath of kings,  
'An honest man's the noblest work of God'  
(The Cotter's Saturday night)*

Come and join the social event of 2010. The Morningside United Church **BURNS SUPPER** is renowned for excellent food, entertainment, speeches and great company.

On Saturday, February 6 at 7.00 pm sharp!

Tickets - £18.50 available at church.

## PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH

### Jottings from the December '09 Meeting - by Judith Aitken

“Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long; let every heart exult with joy, and every voice with song!” were the opening words ringing out from Palmerston Place Church on the evening of the 1st. December. Many years ago when I told someone that I was going to be part of Presbytery, their straight away reply was how much I would enjoy the singing. And so it is these years later, I still get goose bumps when standing to join in the swell of voices raised to Heaven by a contingent of the Body that is of Christ our Saviour. It is in this good atmosphere that we go on to conduct the business of the Church here in Edinburgh, listening first to a tribute to Jean Potts, Deacon, and a welcome to the new Assistant Minister at Colinton, Rev. Gayle Taylor. There followed then a Presentation by Mrs. Kelly Brownlee and a colleague, on the “International Ecumenical Peace Convocation 2011”. This will mark the end of the “Decade of Violence” and will be held in Kingston, Jamaica. The “Decade of Violence” initiative was taken up by Guilds and Ecumenical groups within the church and the convocation will continue with four themes; Peace in the community; Peace with the earth; Peace in the market place; and Peace among the peoples. All four themes are inter-related, and this is an invitation to invest in peace. Mrs. Brownlee encouraged us to think of sending delegates. By supporting the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation we will strengthen the churches’ position on peace, and now more than ever, we have an important role to play as peacemakers in our communities. The IEPC leaflet states, “Another world is possible. Glory to God and Peace on Earth.”

For as long as I can remember, and I know a lot of you will agree, whether in business, in volunteering, in families, or within churches, there has always been the question of how do we communicate effectively? MUC has looked at this recently I am sure not for the first time, and not for the last. Likewise the Presbytery of Edinburgh has produced a draft paper on Developing a Communications Strategy and would appreciate comments back by January 18th. Now, how do I communicate the draft strategy to you, and are you eager to comment? My best solution, and one that I hear myself saying more and more frequently, is, “go to the website”. I think that to communicate effectively now we must do for ourselves that which we have always expected someone to do for us! For example, rather than wait for the newspaper to be delivered to us, we now make a habit of going to it via the web. Anyway, I have the draft paper available, but do think of visiting the Presbytery website the address of which I cannot find in any of the recent Presbytery papers! But, hey, Google it.

Among other business, was a Deliverance to note the challenge of the Rt. Rev. David Lunan to the Presbyteries for each to raise £10,000 for the HIV/AIDS project and urges us to raise funds through “Souper Sunday” in January 2010. Again, the website has recipes to offer. I rather think, thanks to Jennifer Braithwaite, MUC is rather good at soup and indeed ‘souper sundays’. Maybe MUC would like to be involved in this, but our present situation with our building may be prohibitive. How can we help toward the challenge? Food for thought, or soup for thought?

(part 1 - to be continued in February).

## FLOWERS

Jan 3	The Christmas Tree
Jan 10	Mr Jan Chlebowski
Jan 17	Mrs Margaret Aitken
Jan 24	Miss Carolyn Macpherson
Jan 31	Mrs Helen Willoughby



## CRECHE

Jan 3	Sarah Scott (447 2759)	Jenny Hall (466 0161)
Jan 10	Alison Stephen (447 1246)	Helen Rowbotham (445 2886)
Jan 17	Dorothea Nelson (447 2234)	Alice Remijnsen-Turk (228 1536)
Jan 24	Victoria Massimo (01368 866 844)	Anna Annen (221 0074)
Jan 31	Christine Farish (441 6923)	Rebecca Jones (551 4400)

## DOOR and OFFERING

Jan 3	Mrs J. Lambert (07512857169)	Mrs A. Finlay (334 3223)
Jan 10	Mrs H. Rowbotham (445 2886)	Mrs D. Duncan (229 2995)
Jan 17	Mrs H. Rowbotham (445 2886)	Mrs D. Duncan (229 2995)
Jan 24	Miss A. Schuetz	Mrs E. MacGregor (229 4621)
Jan 31	Mr & Mrs M. Hall (466 0161)	

## DATES

Morning Worship is every Sunday at 11.00 am, with Holy Communion on 31 January.

The Book Group (this term reading "The Shack") is on 14 and 28 January.

## SOUND

Jan 3	Jim Armstrong
Jan 10	Bill McLeish
Jan 17	Mike Hall
Jan 24	Max Allan
Jan 31	Jim Armstrong

Friends will note with sadness the passing of **MR BILL MILLER** on 28 November. Bill and his late wife Betty were very involved in setting up and running the church Badminton Club over many years. Betty, of course, was also well known to generations as a Sunday School Teacher.

## COFFEE DUTY

During January - District 4  
- Team Leader: Maggie Mckenzie

© 2010 Morningside United Church

Morningside United Church is an ecumenical congregation in membership of the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church.  
SC 015552 A Registered Scottish Charity.