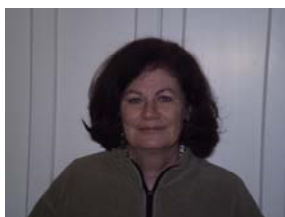


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the magazine of morningside united church
May 2009

CHRISTIAN AID EDITION



Revd Fran Ruthven will be inducted as Associate Minister with Special Responsibility for Older People on 3 May at 3.30 pm



Deborah, Aniko, Zac, Frances and Ashleigh enjoy a day out for younger members to Holy Island.

YOUR CHURCH ON THE WEB!

www.morningsideunitedchurch.org.uk



a letter from John

Dear Friends

Eighteen-year-old Nadia Kabula's story is not an extraordinary one. For many people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), life is a struggle. Following ten years of conflict, malnourishment and preventable diseases still claim thousands of lives each week. Christian Aid partner organisations are helping to rebuild lives and livelihoods in some of the DRC's most vulnerable communities.

After the greatest challenge of Nadia's life, Christian Aid partner Humanité Nouvelle was there to help her focus on the future and the hope of a better life.

Nadia's father died suddenly two-and-a-half years ago. Her grieving mother, Brigitte, struggled to provide for her six children. Even though Brigitte works gruelling 48-hour shifts, some weeks her transport costs total almost as much as her weekly salary.

Nadia was profoundly affected by the death of her father, whom she adored. And his death had immediate practical implications. There was no money to pay for her schooling, so she had to drop out and care for her younger siblings while their mother worked.

Nadia's story lies at the heart of this year's Christian Aid campaign - **Giving Lifeblood!** As every year, we at Holy Corner will be doing our best to support Christian Aid in their work. Please look out for the little ways you can help.

- Can you donate books?
- Can you help bring books up from our store in the basement?
- Can you come along at some time during the two weeks before the Book Sale to help organise, price and generally make ready?
- Can you come and buy books?
- Can you help with the door-to-door collection?

Please do what you can?

We are delighted in May to be welcoming Revd Fran Ruthven, who will be Associate Minister with Special Responsibility for Older People Ministry. Look out for her and give her a great "hello".

Yours sincerely

JOHN R SMITH

MINISTRY TEAM

Minister: Revd John R Smith, MA BD

Associate Minister: Revd Frances W Rosenau, BA Mdiv

- plus ALL the members of Morningside United Church!



MUC NEWS

Morningside United Football Team in their first season playing in the East of Scotland Churches League are not only doing extremely well in the League- they also won the cup, beating Gorgie 4-0. Well done, lads!
PS The MUC Football Team will be featured in “Reform” magazine May edition. “Reform” is the UK wide distributed URC magazine. Speak to Beryl Jenkins.



Congratulations to **Christine Lindner**. Our MUC elder and church member who comes from Long Island, New York, and is a lively leader for us in world awareness, eco-responsibility and social justice, is to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Edinburgh University. Well done, Dr Lindner.

Marc Paetzold looks out over **Lindisfarne** on a grey day, but a beautiful one. Some of MUC’s young international guest members (representing USA, Germany and Canada) spent the day there and enjoyed seeing this special Holy Island. Another group of fit members walks there from the Border Abbeys first weekend in May.



It is the **Easter** Season!

Our six Lent candles have been carefully extinguished and replaced with this Easter Candle. A reminder of the triumph of light over darkness!

Our candle appears most weeks during Easter in our video produced on our website that talks about the theme of Sunday’s worship. This is a popular venture judging by the number of people visiting.

Friends and fellow-members note with regret the passing of Miss Florence Young of Braeside Home, and extend our sympathy to her cousins.

Keeping hope alive: how to make your money go further

Nadia Kabula's story is told throughout the Christian Aid Week materials.



Her mother, struggling to bring up her family alone after the death of her husband, tells us: 'It's really hard to bring up six children on my wages. You can't buy them half a sack of rice with that money. It's nowhere near enough.' The family live in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but their story of deep poverty is characteristic of the communities where our partner organisations work. Christian Aid partner Humanité Nouvelle has taught 18-year-old Nadia tailoring skills, giving her the chance to continue to earn a living in the future.

Last Christian Aid Week we reclaimed around £1 million through Gift Aid. Just £10 could provide a destitute girl with enough material to complete a 12-month tailoring course with Humanité Nouvelle, £1,000 could help 100 girls, and so it goes on. It's not hard to work out the scale of the difference that your Gift Aid contributions could make. And the good news is that it comes at no extra cost.

Gift Aid is a government scheme enabling Christian Aid to reclaim tax on donations made by UK taxpayers. This adds 28p to the value of every pound.

All the supporter needs to do is to complete the simple declaration on the Christian Aid Week envelope.

Christian Aid receives thousands of donations without Gift Aid declarations, each of which means less money to work with the world's poorest communities. So please take a moment to fill in the Gift Aid form, and encourage other people to do so when you are collecting. A minute of your time could help thousands of the world's poorest people.

Keeping hope alive: prayers and reflections for Christian Aid Week

God of love, who is love,
Melt my indifferent heart of stone.
Open my eyes to your children's suffering
And lift my head to see your perfect love again.
Work a miracle in my life
That through your Spirit
And my softened heart's obedience
I might give my very self to keep hope alive,
And to be the change you require.
Amen.

A collector's prayer

Father God,
Remind me again for your love for the poor,
For the marginalised,
And the oppressed.
I want to follow your example and make a difference
With my time and my prayers,
Through collecting and donating
So that a glimpse of heaven is seen on earth,
As hope replaces despair
And peace overcomes violence.
Fill me with your spirit and strength,
So that your name will be glorified
This week and forever.
Amen.

Meditative prayer song

We live in a world that needs miracles
When the days of signs and wonders look
As distant to us as Kinshasa skies.
When God speaks, we expect the Earth to quake
When God acts, surely everything changes.
In prayer, in scripture, we see
A time when miracles spit fire and blood
And faith burns like a star
When lives change in a moment
A word, a touch, a breath
And that change changes all.
Do we live in a world without these miracles
Or are we just too close to see?
Our noses pressed up against a masterpiece
That stretches from horizon to horizon
A miracle of subtle complexity:
A voice amidst the gospel chorus
A needle pulling thread
A choice to love someone in need
Paper envelopes that fall like leaves
And all of these, they have a place,
A time, a reason
Small actions that defy expectation.
The earth turns,
Songs are sung and stories told.
And no one notices the glory of God,
As inch by inch
Step by step

The world alters by faith's miracles.



Nadia helps to train other girls

e-mail: ChristianAid@morningsideunitedchurch.org.uk

IT'S BOOK SALE TIME AGAIN

Holy Corner Churches are again holding their annual BOOK SALE to raise money for this year's Christian Aid Week, 9-16 May 2009.

This popular event in our area brings hundreds of people to Morningside United Church Hall to browse through a massive collection of books - all donated by individuals keen to support Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Week, launched in 1957, is Britain's longest-running fundraising week and is famous for the distinctive red envelope that drops through millions of letterboxes. More importantly, Christian Aid Week is keeping hope alive for many of the world's poorest communities.

'They've given me education for life,' says 18-year-old Nadia Kabula. When her father died, Nadia's family struggled desperately to make ends meet. But a tailoring course run by Christian Aid partner Humanité Nouvelle in the Democratic Republic of Congo has allowed Nadia to imagine a brighter future – and she hopes one day to open her own business. Meanwhile, Nadia is giving others the chance of a fuller life by passing on her skills and her love of fashion to other young girls in her community.

Christian Aid is an international development agency working in around 50 countries, wherever the need is greatest – regardless of race or religion.

Please donate your books, and come and look for some interesting bargains. At the same time you can bring hope to such as Nadia Kabula.

For further information about Christian Aid visit www.christianaid.org.uk



Holy
Corner
Churches

BOOK SALE

also
DVDs & Special Collectables
in
MORNINGSIDE UNITED CHURCH HALL

MAY 9 - 16

Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm

Monday to Friday

12 noon - 6 pm

Books DVDs & Special Collectables required
Items may be handed in 10 am - 4 pm
from Monday 27 April to

Morningside United Church
(Chamberlain Road entrance)

www.christianaid.org.uk www.christianaid.ie

A PLACE TO STAY FOR DINKA VISITORS IN THE AUTUMN

Do you have a spare bedroom that is available in the autumn?
Then please keep reading.

I am looking for accommodation for 5 Africans from southern Sudan. They are coming to Edinburgh for a three-month period (10 September to 10 December) to collaborate with myself and colleagues at University of Edinburgh, on a search project on Dinka, their native language. Is anybody interested in hosting one of them? These people speak English well; they are in their 40s or 50s; they work as language teachers / applied linguists / translators for NGOs / churches / the government of Southern Sudan.

The grant that funds their visit would pay you for accommodation and breakfast, at a rate of 400 pounds per month.

None of these people have traveled outside East Africa, and Dinka culture (think Cow Complex) is very different from what most of us are used to, so any takers are in for an interesting cross-cultural encounter. The way around, these people would get a lot more out of their stay socially if they are housed with people in this way, rather than in dormitory-style accommodation.

If you are interested, please contact me (Bert Remijssen) after church, or by email (bert@ling.ed.ac.uk) or phone (0131-228 1536).



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in

Morningside United Church
presents
**THE GARLETON
SINGERS**
in
“A TASTE OF SCOTLAND”
Conductor: Stephen Doughty

Sunday, 24th May
at 6.30 pm

in Morningside United Church,
Holy Corner, Edinburgh

All proceeds to “500 miles”
- a charity providing FlySpec in Zambia – a flying
orthopaedic and reconstructive surgery service

Tickets priced £10.00

Order in advance at
tickets@morningsideunitedchurch.org.uk



Registered Charity
SC015552

A reminder of this major concert on 24th May by the Garleton Singers.

In Morningside United Church we have selected “500 miles” as our special charity this year. Some of you will have met Olivia Giles at church. Olivia - who became a quadruple amputee after being attacked by meningitis - started this charity to help provide prosthetic support in Africa. We, in particular, are supporting “Fly-spec” which brings an air-based service of orthopaedic and reconstructive care to remote parts of Zambia.

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH - by Judith Aitken

Alleluia, Alleluia! was the opening theme for the gathering of the Presbytery of Edinburgh on Tuesday evening the 14th. April at Palmerston Place Church. Christopher Wordsworth's words of Hymn 427 rang out vigorously with "hearts to heaven and voices raised.....Jesus Christ the King of glory, now is risen from the dead". Such was the theme also from the Moderator of Presbytery, the Rev. Peter Graham, in his remarks of constitution. The hymn always comes in printed form with our papers, and is also displayed on screens either side of the church. I stood in awe, however, as I watched those of the "top" table with their backs to the screens singing out word perfectly. It was only when we all sat down that I noticed a small monitor facing them at the front. The thought, "karaoke" came to mind, but only fleetingly.

We heard some good speeches that evening. Some in graceful tribute, others more strident in content, and yet more packed full of interest.

I will endeavour to relate a flavour of the evening's discussions.

Faith Liddle, the co-coordinator/director of "Festivals Edinburgh" gave a presentation, which was informative, inspiring and inviting. This is a new post overseeing the coming together of all the festivals which take place here, but principally the seven main festivals: International, Fringe, Book, Film, Jazz and Blues, Art, and the Tattoo. Along side that, of course, we have, Science, Children's Theatre, Storytelling and Hogmanay. The seven main festivals generate an audience of around 3m800,000 leading to around £200m turnover which is a huge industry for Edinburgh. Faith talked and took questions and displayed an enthusiasm and expertise with ease and awareness. When John Smith asked about the vexed question of the Trams in relation to all this, she was able to say, "yes" there will be anxiousness, but at the end of the day it was about moving these great numbers of people around the city quickly and easily in the future.

Mark Foster (not ours, but theirs), the convener of the Presbytery's Social and Community Interests Committee, gave an update on "Fresh Start". This is the 10th anniversary of Presbytery initiating this charity for the homeless in our city. Funding changes have been taking place over the past months, which has meant voluntary organisations having to put in bids for funding to the Council, often in opposition to each other. However, with a lot of hard work and co-operation, "Fresh Start" has been able to secure funding along with other organisations such as Bethany and the Salvation Army, to provide an even better and more comprehensive service to its users; those who find themselves homeless and often, hopeless. The service offers among other things, starter packs, furniture and property decoration. For more information about "Fresh Start" you can go to: www.freshstartweb.org.uk

Under the report from the Home Mission Committee, we agreed a deliverance, "to note with interest the planned enterprise to set up teams of Street Pastors in

Edinburgh involving the Churches, Council and Police and encourage interested congregations to learn more of the scheme”.

I have to say I agreed with this wholeheartedly because very recently I had a conversation with a Street Pastor in Aberdeen. She had undergone the training, provided mostly by the Police, and knowing her as I do to be a faithful Christian, I could see how this work totally fitted her call to action.

Street Pastors is an Interdenominational Church response to neighbourhood problems; engaging with people on the streets and in night time venues to care, listen, dialogue and offer practical help. The enterprise came into existence in response to the question, “what can the Church do about crime on our streets?” Seven local churches in the Greenside area of Edinburgh are working together to achieve the first Street Pastors here. Volunteers have to have a live church connection and put up £300 to cover their training, uniform and equipment. Street Pastors will be easily identified and will carry a rucksack with first aid supplies, protective gloves, space blankets, flip flops, dustpan and brush and information packs. They are expected to do twelve days of training, and to work on the streets 8pm to 4am. Where Street Pastors are present the crime figures have been reduced.

I heard a phrase recently that has been going round and round in my head, “Get off your blessed assurance and do something!” We are so blessed under God’s grace, and what a great call to action for Jesus in our communities is this initiative of Street Pastors!

I wonder if we will hear in ten years time at Presbytery a report on Street Pastors such as we heard of the success of Fresh Start last Tuesday? I hope so, and I hope I am around to catch it!

MOVIES IN MAY

Come along to watch a film with the Book Group - with a chance for discussion afterwards! These three films are all visually stunning, engaging, and raise questions for us about faith. All welcome!

April 30th Babette’s Feast (Babettes gæstebud - 1987)

May 14th Andrei Rublev (1966)

May 28th Romero (1989)

All meetings begin at 7.00 pm in the Upper Room.

May Rotas



DOOR AND COLLECTION

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 rd | Mrs F. Newlands (229 3604) | Mrs J. Ross (228 8984) |
| 10 th | SERVICE IN CHRIST CHURCH MORNINGSIDE | |
| 17 th | Mrs E. MacGregor (229 4621) | Mrs M. Nicholson (478 2051) |
| 24 th | Miss J. Dobson (447 0673) | Mrs M. Nicholson (478 2051) |
| 31 st | Mrs E. MacGregor (229 4621) | Miss J. Dobson (447 0673) |

FLOWERS

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3 rd | Miss J Braithwaite |
| 10 th | SERVICE IN CHRIST CHURCH MORNINGSIDE |
| 17 th | Miss Joan Crockett |
| 24 th | Mrs A Annen-Pearson |
| 31 st | Miss Carolyn Macpherson |

SOUND

| |
|---------------|
| Bill McLeish |
| Mike Hall |
| Max Allan |
| Jim Armstrong |

CRECHE

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 rd | Maggie McKenzie (229 6055) | Dorothea Nelson (447 2234) |
| 10 th | SERVICE IN CHRIST CHURCH MORNINGSIDE | |
| 17 th | Alice Remijns-Turk (228 1536) | Victoria Massimo (225 2728) |
| 24 th | Anna Annen (221 0074) | Elizabeth MacGregor (229 4621) |
| 31 st | Christine Farish (441 6923) | Rebecca Jones (551 4400) |

COFFEE DUTY during May - District 3 Elizabeth Macgregor

EFFECTIVE 1st May !

Revd Fran Ruthven's telephone number will be 07733883403.
Her e-mail will be f.ruthven@morningsideunitedchurch.org.uk



MAY

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--|
| Sunday 3 - Easter 4 | 11.00 3.30 | Morning Worship INDUCTION SERVICE Revd Fran Ruthven |
| Monday 4 | 11.00 | Coffee at Starbucks |
| Tuesday 5 | 7.00 | URC - Discussion on Russian Literature |
| Saturday 9 | 10.00 | Christian Aid Book Sale opens Young People's Sponsored Bake for CA |
| Sunday 10 - Easter 5 | 10.00 | United Service - Holy Communion- Christ Church Morningside Soup and cheese lunch |
| Thursday 14 | 7.00 | Book Group - Film Evening |
| Saturday 16 | 11.00-4.00 | Last day of Christian Aid Book Sale |
| Sunday 17 - Easter 6 | 11.00 | Morning Worship |
| Monday 18 | 7.30 | Just Action Group - Upper Room |
| Tuesday 19 | 7.00 | URC - Discussion on Russian Literature |
| Sunday 24 - Easter 7 | 11.00 | Morning Worship |
| Saturday 30 | 10.00 | United Artists |
| Sunday 31 - Pentecost | 11.00 | Holy Communion Preacher: Dr Nick Brindley |

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Morningside United Church is an ecumenical congregation in membership of the Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church.
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