

All August dates to be confirmed **Readers**

August 5 Ruth Shepley

Flowers

August 12 TBC

August 19 Maggie McKenzie

August 26 Jennifer Gruber

All August dates to be confirmed

Door

August 5 David Donald

Sound

August 12 Rob Clyde

August 19 Max Allen

August 26 Geoff Bromiley

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Link

August 2018

The magazine of
Morningside United Church



Letter from the manse



violence make the future less clear than it was at its beginning. The truth is if we look around the world we see even more difficult and disturbing events encroaching on our peace as suffering dominates TV images.

Have you ever thought that sometimes the Bible is criticised for all its stories of suffering? Actually, it only seems to reflect the world as it is, a place where many people find life difficult. With this in mind how can faith help us?

Simply note that there has never been the promise of an easy life. In fact, Jesus talks about the opposite, taking up our cross to follow Him. But He is with us to help and guide. In the gospels we are promised a friend for our journey. In Matthew 28:20 (NIV) we are simply told by Jesus, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

So, this summer, let us resolve to work and build our relationships growing together in love and respect our differences but assured no matter we face in life, God is with us.

With every Blessing

Rev Steven



Dear Friends,

Thank you everyone who has worked so hard to make our summer renovations possible! This is an exciting time for all at MUC. By modernising and restoring our building we are preparing for the future so that our church can bring people together in Christ's name. We are here to serve our community by creating a safe space where people gathering together as groups or individuals can catch up with friends and neighbours and learn something about faith and service. This is our mission for Holy Corner.

However, as this glorious summer progresses people keep telling me how time goes quicker as one gets older. This seems true to me because this year seems to be disappearing at an astonishing pace creating problems in its wake. For many this is already a year filled with concerns and anxieties. A context dominated by Brexit, Presidents Trump and Putin, social inequality, images of refugees, hunger and

What's on in August

1 August	Wednesday. Prayers in the sanctuary 5 pm. All welcome.	
2 August	Thursday. 10.30-12.00 noon. Coffee morning in the small hall. All welcome.	
8 August	Wednesday. Prayers in the sanctuary 5 pm. All welcome.	
15 August	Wednesday. Prayers in the sanctuary 5 pm. All welcome.	
16 August	Thursday. 10.30-12.00 noon. Coffee morning in the small hall. All welcome.	
21 August	Tuesday. 7.30pm. Octavoce choral concert and fundraiser.	
22 August	Wednesday. Prayers in the sanctuary 5 pm. All welcome.	
29 August	Wednesday. Prayers in the sanctuary 5 pm. All welcome.	
30 August	Thursday. 10.30-12.00 noon. Coffee morning in the small hall. All welcome.	

Raalkam Educational Trust

Good news! Grace and Rev Solomon have purchased five laptop computers with the funds we raised for our Easter campaign and are now ready to begin providing tuition in using them at their educational foundation in Tamil Nadu. They sent us this message and some pictures of how they are getting on.

'Greetings from RAALKAM EDUCATIONAL TRUST, India. We hope you are all well by the grace of God.

As mentioned in my previous mail, five laptops were purchased in May, 2018. You may perhaps aware that Grace underwent a cataract operation on 21st of May and had to take rest till the final review on 26th June 2018. We did electrical connections on 4th July and gave advertisement about the free computer training on 8th and 15th July in local daily and churches.

However, the computer education training was inaugurated on today (Tuesday 17 July) at 10 am. Rev. Sam Jayasingh, Presbyterian, CSI Church, Meadpuram recommended five ladies from his Church. They are all recently married and living under poverty line because of inadequate income and completely computer illiterates. While welcoming the participants, Solomon highlighted the need and importance of computer knowledge for their future.

Sam mentioned that these ladies are very eager to acquire computer skill in order to equip themselves to earn some income that would complement their family income.

Dr. Gnaana Moni, who was present in the meeting mentioned that this computer training would be a cornerstone to build their future. Grace told that this basic training would enable them to be employed in the local shops nearby. The trainees introduced themselves and expressed their expectations and curiosities. The meeting ended with the blessings by the Presbyter.

Refreshment was served. We are very thankful to MUC parish. It was decided to have the class from 11am to 1 pm every day.

Grace introduced Microsoft Word after the inaugural session and the trainees showed much enthusiasm. The class ended at 1pm. Our neighbours welcomed the effort.

We send some photos separately.

Solomon & Grace'



Our Cross is NOT on a Shoogly Peg!

Contrary to what was reported in the last Link, our cross is NOT on a shoogly peg! This turned out to be misinformation. A more thorough investigation by Forth Pipe Organs and the architect Kris Grant reveals the cross is made of plywood! So being of light materials it is not causing any damage to the organ frame and can be renovated in a bright shade of gold as part of the renovations as a focal point to declare our faith.

Church of Scotland General Assembly 2018

This year's General Assembly had some grim news which must focus the trustees' and the congregation's minds as we review and upgrade our constitution, particularly as regards the destination of our assets in the light of the closure and amalgamation of churches which is currently going on apace. Morningside United Church is a united congregation formed by the union in 1980 of the former North Morningside Church (now the Eric Liddell Centre) and Morningside Congregational Church to form Morningside United Church. As such, we are 'in communion' ecumenically with both the Church of Scotland and the United Reform Church (as the Congregationalists subsequently merged with the URC in 2000). We remain locally owned – a legacy of

the historical independency of both congregations; North Morningside Church was originally a United Presbyterian church until the UPs merged with the Church of Scotland in 1928. In short, our buildings and our reserves are our own, and not the legal property of either denomination, yet there is a danger that they could fall within the purview of the denominations if the constitution currently being reviewed fails to make this clear. Should our church close, who should take that decision, who should control the destination of the assets and where should they go? It is important to retain local control should this ever arise - even as we optimistically engage in a plan of renewal. The Church of Scotland is considering a widespread sell-off of its buildings in its Strategic Plan to address plunging church membership and the fall in income. The future of 121 George Street, the Church's headquarters, which currently houses 200 staff, does not seem to be threatened under the Plan, yet needs costly maintenance and renovation.

The Grosvenor Chamber Choir

Organ scholar Max's fund-raising concert at MUC in June raised over £200 for the Marie Curie hospice in Fairmilehead. Well done Max, and many thanks to the young folk who provided such wonderful singing and a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Octavoce concert Tuesday 21st August 7.30pm

Jenny Sterling's choral group Octavoce sing a variety of types of choral pieces from medieval to modern. They have recently performed in Hampshire to great acclaim. Don't miss their fundraising concert which will be held at MUC on 21st August at 7.30pm!

Roddy McNeill (24.6.1925 - 24.5.2018)

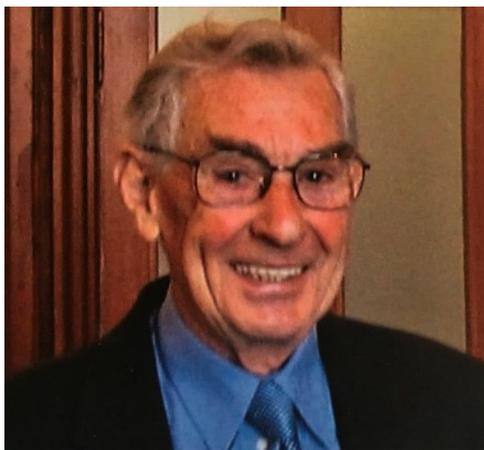
Last month we sadly celebrated the funeral of one of the congregation's oldest members. Roddy was simply an old-fashioned gentleman. He was always smartly dressed as he and Alice his much-loved wife of 67 years went out and about Morningside. Roddy saw service during the war on the fast speed boats patrolling the Channel and was so proud to have served in the Royal Navy. His greatest achievement (by his own admission!) was landing Alice whom he met whilst working at the brewery office! This was a love match and both Roddy and Alice were inspirational in their love and care for each other and their family. Roddy was blest by a long 5 retirement. In that time he simply put

Christian Aid Week 2018

The week started strongly but sales tailed off and the final Saturday quieter than usual. Sunday 13th was very successful, a lot of families visited. £310 was collected in the cans at the pay desk and outside the church. The refreshments, including some very tasty soup on the opening Saturday, made £334. The joint service collection in Christ Church gave £160 plus £101 from their Sunday School children's bake sales. Christ Church put on a revue which raised £1884. Envelopes from both churches gave £752. Receipts were just over £16,000 - an excellent result only possible because of the hard work by many local volunteers, particularly Margaret Lobban, the booksale organiser.

family first. This was surely the hallmark of his living. Roddy was baptised in Morningside old parish, now Chalmers but moved to Braid Church, finally settling at MUC on the Braid's closure.

Please give thanks for life well-lived and continue to pray for Alice and all the family.



Morningside United Youth Choir wins top prize!

On 3rd May Morningside United Youth Choir under the directorship of our excellent Jenny Sterling won a prize in the 'Choirs For All Ages' section of the Edinburgh Competition Festival held in St Cuthbert's Church.

The competition had been postponed from March when it had to be cancelled due to the snow. The children had been very disappointed after all their hard work preparing over the winter. However, that disappointment turned to joy and all their hard work paid off

especially as they were the very first choir to sing - and the opening slot is not the easiest one to step into! But the choir launched straightaway into the competition with enthusiasm and an opening solo followed by some complex singing parts across 'all ages'.

Well done choir! The children are now on a summer break but will return in the autumn. We look forward to hearing any new pieces.