

Creche

There will be no creche until further notice.

Flowers

- 4 Anna pearson
- 11 Rose Kumbanga
- 18 Mairianna Clyde
- 25 Anna Pearson

Door

- 4 Elizabeth MacGregor and H. McKenzie
- 11 Elizabeth MacGregor and M. McKenzie
- 18 Elizabeth MacGregor and H. McKenzie
- 25 Elizabeth MacGregor and M. McKenzie

Sound

- 4 Rob Clyde
- 11 Max Allen
- 18 David Donald
- 25 Lesley Donald



The magazine of Morningside United Church



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Letter from the manse



and each of us has to rediscover the gift of finding Gods gentle hand print where we least expect to see it. Quite simply too often we take things and people for granted, and we forget to 'count our blessings' and fail to see Gods hand in our daily lives.

With this in mind this Lent you are all invited to share your loose change with our nominated charities as an act of alms-giving by donating to our Lent Bucket Appeal. Beyond this can you fast or do without lunch or a latte at least once a week so that in fasting we can remember those who have little and with what's saved contribute further to the appeal. But above all can you perform one small act of kindness each day so that by Easter Sunday each of us will have given a bouquet of forty kindnesses to friends and strangers alike - hidden yet life enhancing.

Lent is a time to reflect on our frailties and our blessings. It's a time to consider the context of our living and working for its here we can find God. One of the things I am particularly thankful for is the faith of those in the past who had the vision to bring people together for worship at MUC; people who in so many hidden ways put so much into the building and rebuilding of our church. I'm also very thankful for the faithful members who continue to do so much, on a Sunday and throughout the week. We share our

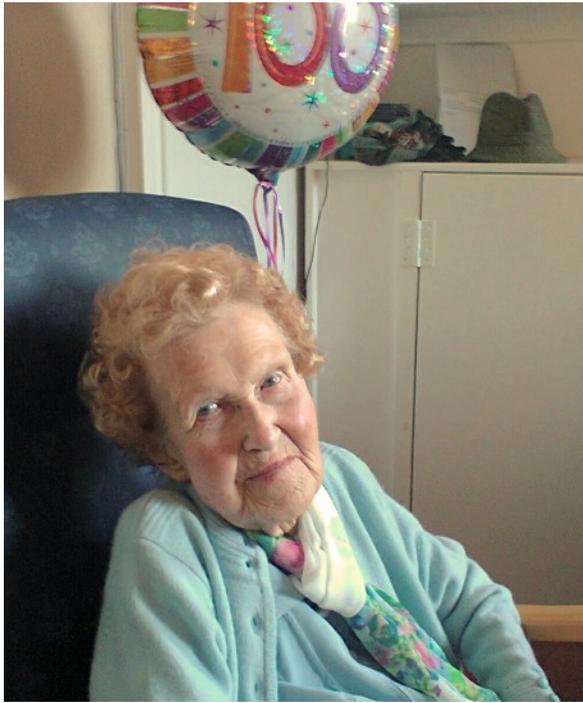
As I am writing this letter, on my dining room table is a small bunch of the very first snowdrops from the manse garden potted by the builder who removed them to fix the garage wall. They are fragile and delicate, with beautiful hidden patterning in a pale green on the inside. They are simply a sign of hope heralding forth new life from the garden and I know that they will soon to be joined by emerging flashes of gold from the daffodils, scarlet from the tulips and lilacs and purple from the crocuses. I love to see spring flowers carpeting our world as the days lengthen. It lifts my spirits and gives me hope and makes me thankful for the quiet beauty that is all around us.

Yet sometimes, I reckon that beauty is hidden, rather like the inside of my snowdrops. Hidden beauty requires the discipline to search for it. So often, we don't realise how fortunate we are, not only with the glory of nature around us but also in God's gift of the people who surround us. Blessings are often hidden



What's on this month

- 7** Wednesday. Prayer group, chancel, from 5pm-5.30pm. Join us for some mid-week prayers and quiet contemplation.
- 14** Wednesday. Prayer group, chancel, from 5pm-5.30pm. Join us for some mid-week prayers and quiet contemplation.
- 15** Thursday. Coffee morning, small hall, 10.30am - 12.00pm. 
- 15** Thursday. Book group, in the centre vestibule at 7.30pm-9.00pm
- 18** Sunday. Congregational lunch at the manse.
- 19** Monday. Kirk Session, centre vestibule, 7.30pm. All welcome. This is an open meeting.
- 21** Wednesday. Prayer group, chancel, from 5pm-5.30pm. Join us for some mid-week prayers and quiet contemplation.
- 25** Sunday. Fairtrade breakfast, 9.15am.
- 28** Wednesday. Prayer group, chancel, from 5pm-5.30pm. Join us for some mid-week prayers and quiet contemplation.



Happy 100th Birthday Ellen!

We were overjoyed our oldest member Ellen Knopp celebrated her 100th birthday with us on Sunday 4th February, followed by a wonderful party at Morlich House where Ellen now lives. There were lots of flowers, balloons and a wonderful cake decorated with pink flowers. Ellen's daughter Ruth cut the cake and distributed it to us all. It was a wonderful day. Ellen was a Land Girl during the last war and we hope to serialise her memoirs in the Link soon, which she wrote down some years ago.

Well done Ellen!



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spring we discover a messy season when the vestiges of winter can impinge on us leaving us to discover the messiness of our surroundings to be much like the messiness of our lives as we recognise that over time, our hearts and souls, when left unattended, get windblown and cluttered.

Lent invites us to deal with the mess.

This is not about quickly cleaning things up and pretending they were never there, nor is it about ignoring the detritus of our living.

Lent invites to roll up our sleeves and sort through the debris of our lives.

Lent allows us to see the parts of ourselves we'd rather leave covered up. It asks us to drag our full self into the light of day no matter how dark it may be.

As we near the end of Lent, we encounter Good Friday and rediscover our aching longing for the hope of Easter reminding us that in the Kingdom of God, our messed up lives can be sorted, our wounds healed, our sins forgiven, certain too that death doesn't have the last word; life does.

Ash Wednesday, Lent and Good Friday teach us the resurrection is something we desperately need—for our broken selves and our broken world.

And so, as we enter into this Lenten Season, may we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return. May we examine our frail, flawed soul and, with Jesus, enter the darkness of our sin and death and journey with Him to the Cross.

May we be crucified with Christ, and buried in the likeness of His death, so that when we hear the words "He is risen!" perhaps for the first time, we might truly celebrate the resurrection—because we have chosen to die so that we may have life.



Lent Day Retreat

Details will be announced soon.

Lent Bible Study

This will take place at Morlich House to share study with the older people who live there. Times and Dates will be announced soon.

Youth Choir

Morningside United Youth Choir will be performing at the Edinburgh Competition Festival on Thursday the 1st March, participating in a category for 'choirs for all ages'. They are hugely excited to sing their two pieces, the traditional African song, 'Siya Hamba' and 'I am the Gentle Light' by Paul Mealor which they sing in church.

The competition will take place at St. Cuthbert's Parish Church at 10am.

We wish the choir every success with their beautiful singing!

Congregational Lunch

At the manse, Sunday February 18th at 1pm. Everyone is most welcome and if you have not yet been – it is highly recommended as Steven is a cordon bleu chef! Please sign the sheet in the south vestibule notice board so that we have an approximate idea of numbers.

THE FAIRTRADE BREAKFAST

At 9.15am

Sunday 25th February

All Welcome

Tickets from Maggie McKenzie and Elizabeth Hogg



FAIRTRADE

Christian Aid Gathering

Augustine United Church – 28th February 2018 – 10.45am to 3pm. Join us to find out how you can give, act and pray with us in 2018. Hear from Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland, and discover new ways to support Christian Aid's work.

If you are interested in attending, please ask for more information from Lesley Donald. There is also a Christian Aid Lent prayer leaflet if anyone would like copies.

organises this for our church. Either give your used stamps to her or leave them in the plastic folder that is on the notice board in the rear corridor.

Stamps: Don't throw away those old used envelopes! Retrieve the stamps first! Did you know that by sending the used stamps to Christian Aid in London that the charity is able to reclaim some money back? Jennifer Gruber

Lenten journey TOGETHER. And together we at MUC will encounter the blessings of life and the hope of Easter.

During Lent rediscover the holiness of life. Bring your prayers to church, attend the Music and Meditation events and join in with Holy week. Everyone is most welcome, even if you can't make it all the time.

However you choose to mark Lent, I do hope you will continue to give thanks for our wonderful world, our faith and the God who loves us.

Every blessing

Reverend Steven

Lent Cross

Our Lenten observance of Forty Days is an opportunity for all of us to deepen, renew, refresh, strengthen, and re-live our faith in Jesus Christ and His Church.

We all have areas of our lives that need healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, re-building, re-connecting, and mercy. During this Lenten Journey a Cross will be placed near the sanctuary of the Church. You are invited to place before the Cross of your petitions, your burdens, your pain, your sorrow, your regrets, your forgiveness, your doubts, your will. On Holy Saturday our cross of prayers will be transformed in to an Easter Cross covered with Flowers reminding us that our prayers are heard.

We are not alone during our spiritual journey through life, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, walks this journey with us. Jesus Christ, Is The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

"Behold, now is a very acceptable time; now is the day of salvation."

(Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 6:2).

Why Lent Matters

In the six weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, Christians around the world observe the season of Lent. However, in many modern Christian circles, practicing Lent through fasting or giving up items or activities in day-to-day life—has fallen out of favour. How do we restore Lent's purpose in our daily living? What is the season of Lent for?

Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter weekend. Those 40 days have historically been used by the Church to re-orient the season of our lives around Easter and the coming of Christ's death and resurrection. The goal is a re-orienting of our hearts around the reality that Christ died for our sins and was resurrected from the grave as evidence that all of our sin has been fully, freely, and forever paid for in His life, death and resurrection. Lent is the preparatory season that helps us understand the hope of our faith found in the Easter story.

The word Lent comes from the Latin root meaning "to lengthen", reminding us that during the season of spring, the sun takes a little longer each evening to settle beyond the horizon. The weather grows warmer and life emerges once more. Lent becomes a connecting point. In this transitional phase from winter to
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