

Rotas

COFFEE leader Max Allan

January 06 Max Allan

Readers

January 13 Mary Nisbet

January 20 Rose Kumbanga

January 27 David Donald

January 06 Tree

Flowers

January 13 Margaret Aitken

January 20 Margaret Forrester

January 27 Helen Willoughby

January 06 Mark Pearson

Door

January 13 Maggie and Hamish MacKenzie

January 20 Maggie and Hamish MacKenzie

January 27 Elizabeth MacGregor

January 06 Max Allan

Sound

January 13 David Donald

January 20 Lesley Donald

January 27 David Donald

Cover: The old military road at Dunkeld

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Morningside United Church



January 2019

Epiphany

Welcome in 2019! Another New Year of fresh hope for the future arrives. Let's hope 2019 will be filled with God's grace for all of our congregation, family and friends, especially as we warmly welcome the congregation of Cornerstone to share in our buildings for worship over the next few months. May the shoots of new beginnings come and may we be in a much better place to be able to respond to them and embrace the new journey they take us on. And amidst the political uncertainties ahead may we find peace.

Although New Year is traditionally a time of hope and renewal (and the aspiration that we may become better people) this New Year 2019 is tinged with sadness, because as we said goodbye to 2018 we also said goodbye to several long-standing members of our congregation who passed away in December and whose obituaries appear in this month's Link: Ellen Knopp, Jenn Cowan, Joyce Ross, Janet Miller. We will miss them but give thanks for their lives, fellowship and faithful witness, the memory of which will live on in our hearts. May they rest in peace. We also pray for the families who mourn them.

Ecclesiastes tells us that it is 'better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting, for that is the end of every man, and the living should take it to heart' (7:2). As we reach the twelfth day of Christmas, (January 6th) the season of Epiphany (or twelfth night) arrives and it too carries a warning as well as hope. Epiphany in the early church was one of the great feast days, second only to Easter in its importance. The third great feast was Pentecost, another day that has drifted into the religious backwaters. (Nobody even thought about celebrating Christmas until the fourth century). The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "revelation". It celebrates the Wise Men arriving at the stable and recognising Jesus as the Messiah and thus His nature being revealed to the Gentiles. The message of Epiphany is one of hope – the good news that God is with us – but it also comes with a warning to be ready: "keep watch... for you don't know the day or the hour when God will appear." The God who was made manifest in Jesus is the same God that is manifest all around us if only we have eyes and hearts open to see.



January events

January 09	Wednesday. Prayers for the Parish 5pm
January 10	Thursday. Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12.00pm small hall
January 13	Sunday. Joint service with Cornerstone 11am
January 14	Monday. Kirk Session 7.30pm centre vestibule
January 16	Wednesday. Prayers for the Parish 5pm
January 17	Thursday. Book Group 7pm
January 20	Sunday. Congregational Meeting 12pm
January 23	Wednesday. Prayers for the Parish 5pm
January 24	Thursday. Coffee Morning Small Hall 10.30-12
January 31	Thursday. Book Group 7pm

Merlin to Christianity near the site of a church he later founded - Stobo Kirk. Mungo returned to the River Clyde. His church became the focus of a large community known as *Clas-gu* or "dear family" from which emerged the city of Glasgow. He was visited there by Saint Columba, who was working as a missionary in central Scotland and died at Glasgow on Sunday 13 January 614. His tomb lies in the centre of the Lower Choir of Glasgow Cathedral - probably the site of his grave.

To become a Saint the candidate must have performed miracles during their lifetime. St Mungo was said to have performed four referred to in this poem:

*Here is the bird that never flew
Here is the tree that never grew
Here is the bell that never rang
Here is the fish that never swam*

In the first, he is said to have restored life to the pet robin of St Serf which was killed by some of his classmates. In the second he used branches of a tree to restart a fire at the monastery that had gone out because he had fallen asleep while he was meant to be watching it! The third relates to a miraculous bell he brought back with him from Rome. The fourth involved Queen Languoreth of Strathclyde, accused

of infidelity by her husband King Riderich. He alleged she had given her wedding ring to her lover. The king had thrown it into the river.

Facing execution, the Queen appealed to St Mungo, who ordered a servant to catch a fish from the river. When it was cut open the ring was found inside, demonstrating the Queen's innocence. The bird, tree, bell and fish form the four elements of the municipal crest of Glasgow.

Mungo is also responsible for the city's motto, based on his prayer:
"Lord let Glasgow flourish through the preaching of thy word and praising thy name."

We Remember

Janet Miller (1922-2018) who passed peacefully at Chamberlain Nursing home. She was married to the late Drysdale, mother of Douglas and David and grandmother to Alexander, James and Hannah.

Jen Cowan (1931- 2018) Jenn's funeral will take place later this month and an obituary will appear in the February Link.

Ellen Knopp (1918-2018)

Ellen Agnes Sinclair was born in 1918 in Piershill, Edinburgh, to parents who had moved to the city from Orkney. All four grandparents were farmers and one side of the family hailed from even further afield having migrated to Orkney from Fair Isle in the early 1800s. After school Ellen became a pharmacist working for many years as a dispensing chemist at Boots. She was proud of her northern ancestry and she and her sister Margaret maintained life-long contact with the family farm in Orkney visiting for summer holidays. The 'magnetic north' exercised a powerful pull which Ellen has passed on to her children, and so it was that in the 1950s she set sail on the Newcastle-Bergen ferry for a holiday to Norway, her first trip abroad, organised through a church group, where she met her future husband Philip Knopp, an Englishman from Hayes in Kent. Kent was to become her home for the next forty years. Norway however always held a special place in her heart as she vividly remembered the places she and Philip had visited. A strong Christian, Ellen also had a strong sense of duty to her country and her community. During the war years, before her marriage, she joined the Women's Land Army in East Lothian and served on various farms across the county making many firm friends. Encouraged by her children James and Ruth, she penned a detailed memoir of her war years as a Land Girl, an extract of which recently featured in the Link. After Philip died in 1976 Ellen began a new phase of her life as an active volunteer in

her local church fellowship making trays of apple sponge cake puddings with apples from the garden. She also began travelling in her later years visiting far-flung places to see family and friends – Canada, Australia, and later, Thailand. In her 80s she returned to Edinburgh to be closer to her sister Margaret, living at Falcon House and in her last two years, at Morlich House finding friendship and fellowship at Morningside United Church where she was much loved. Ellen celebrated her 99th and 100th birthdays at Morlich. She was a kindly, gentle and gracious soul whose fellowship and friendship will be sorely missed.



Ellen pictured on a recent visit to Aberlady in November to visit the display of poppies for the Great War Centenary.

Joyce Ross (1930-2018) Joyce's obituary will appear in the February Link.

Eco-congregation Network Invitation

MUC is invited to a planning meeting of the Edinburgh Network of Eco-congregations in the Millar Hall at Duddingston Kirk on Thursday 31st January at 7.30pm. Ideas for talks, workshops and visits for 2019 are welcome so that the Network can draft a programme for the year.



Edinburgh Churches Together Only Justice

A service of Prayer and Worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held on Monday 21st January at 7.30pm, Palmerston Place Church with Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator Elect of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, hosted by Edinburgh Churches Together. A reception will follow the service.

'Justice, and only justice, shall you pursue' Deuteronomy 16: 18-20

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will resume on Sunday 13th January under the direction of Moira Morrison. We very much welcome Moira to MUC and hope she will enjoy directing our young and talented choristers as much as Jenny did and look forward to hearing their wonderful harmonies again soon. As reported in the December Link Jenny has moved on to an exciting new post with Opera North and we wish her every success.

Cornerstone



We have new 'housemates'! An exciting new chapter will begin for Morningside United when we welcome to our spiritual home for the next few months the The Free Church congregation of Cornerstone and their minister Rev Neil MacMillan who will join with us in worship on Sunday 13th January and thereafter take up temporary residence in the Main Hall for Sunday services at 11 while their church, The Old Schoolhouse (opposite Waitrose) is undergoing extensive renovation. Cornerstone are a thriving and youthful congregation bursting at the seams! We are delighted to welcome them and hope they will find a happy temporary home here.

Prayer for Epiphany

God, who, by the guidance of a star, revealed your only-begotten Son to the nations: Grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at the last be led to see your glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen

St Kentigern

January 14th is St Kentigern's Day and celebrates the life of one of Scotland's earliest and most important missionaries. According to the *Life of Saint Mungo* written by the monk, Jocelin of Furness, in about 1185, Mungo's mother was Theneva or Denw daughter of Loth



King of the Gododdin, who ruled an area centred on today's East Lothian. Her father had her tied to a chariot and launched off Traprain Law after she became pregnant out of wedlock. Surviving this, she was then cast adrift in a coracle without oars on the River Forth. She drifted up-river and came ashore at Culross in Fife, where Kentigern was born. He was given the name Mungo, meaning something like "dear one" by St Serf, who ran the monastery at Culross and took in both mother and son and oversaw Mungo's upbringing. At the age of 25 Mungo began his missionary work on the banks of the River Clyde where he was welcomed by people previously converted to Christianity by St Ninian. He built his church close to the confluence of the River Clyde and the Molendinar Burn. Glasgow Cathedral is built on the site. He worked there for thirteen years until the anti-Christian King Morken of Strathclyde drove him out in 565. Making his way through Cumbria to Wales, he spent time with St David, possibly founding a cathedral at St Asaph and even making a pilgrimage to Rome. He returned to Strathclyde in the 570s after King Rhydderch Hael overthrew Morken and invited him to become Archbishop of Strathclyde. In August 584 Mungo is said to have converted the bard