

Readers
May 6 David Donald
May 13 Hamish McKenzie
May 20 Dr Robert Clyde
May 27 Mike Bruce

Flowers
May 6 Margaret Forrester
May 13 Christ Church
May 20 Main Hall
May 27 Daphne Paton

Door
May 6 Lesley and David Donald
May 13 Christ Church
May 20 Lesley and David Donald
May 27 Elizabeth MacGregor and E Hogg

Sound
May 6 Rob Clyde
May 13 Christ Church
May 20 Main Hall
May 27 Geoff Bromiley



Link

May 2018

The magazine of
Morningside United Church

Cover image:
The Ascension of Jesus

Ascension Day takes place this year on 10th May and marks the 40th day of Easter.

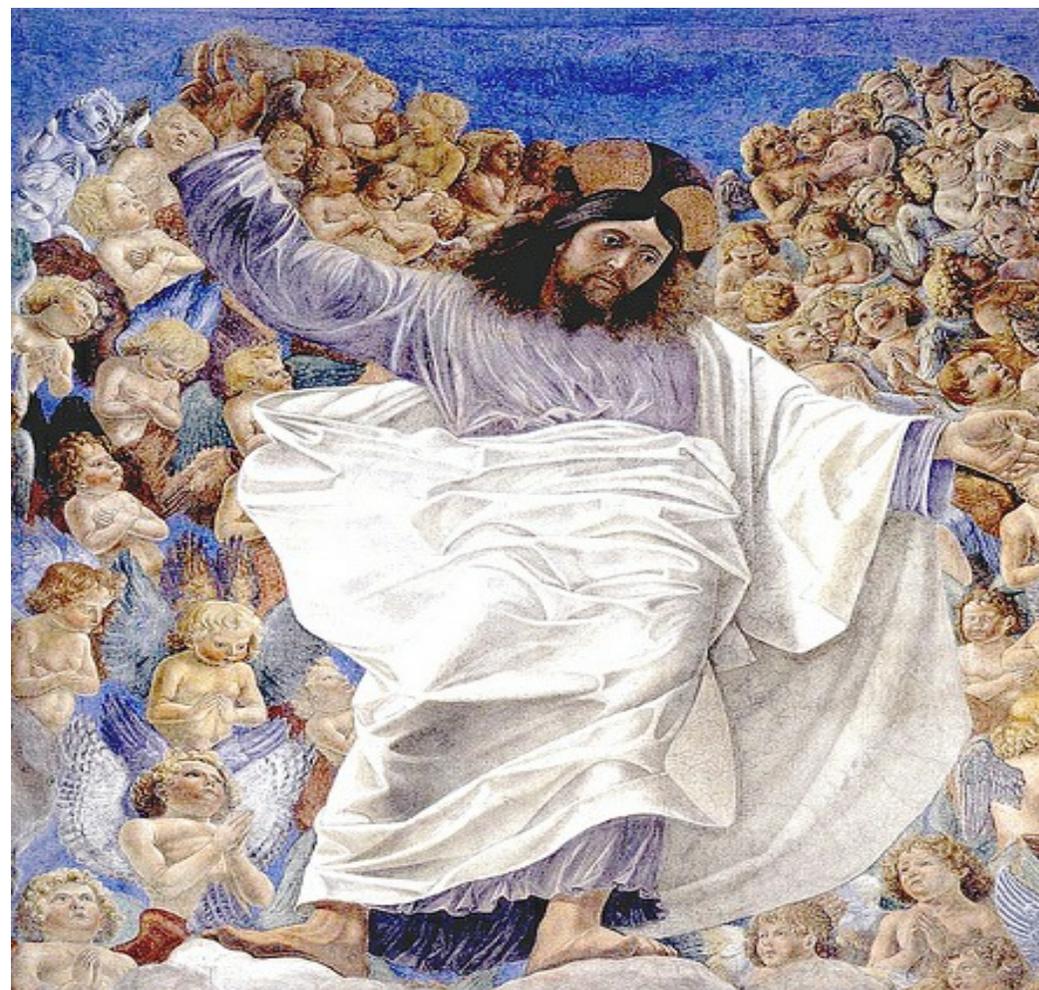
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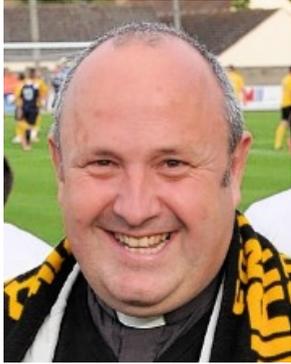
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Letter from the manse



“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and then everything will be added unto you”

And it’s true. Our rebuilding is set on strong foundations recognising that at MUC we can be truly grateful for the way so many people working together have kept our congregation going over the years. We are standing on the shoulders of giants and are simply realising their dream of a congregation that wants to serve the people of Holy corner in the name of Christ. Our mission is everlasting.

With this in mind I am certain that the skills and gifts of current members and adherents that are daily put to good use for MUC and the wider community will not be lost in the future as we expand our sense of collaborative ministry for the whole people of God. As a congregation we can we develop a shared ministry that is outward looking, ecumenically centred and focused on serving all the people of Holy Corner. And from the perspective of faith we are all involved. You see Christian ministry is not simply reserved for those who are trained or pious or for those who have great faith. Jesus called the whole people of God and in fact over the generations Jesus has called a multitude of ordinary people who were so ordinary that we know little if anything about them. Think about the people known to you who have been sign posts in your life of faith. Their legacy of love and service is an inspiration for our lives.

Dear Friends

As springtime finally embeds itself into the rhythm of our lives we at MUC have something to celebrate. After much consultation, discussion and planning the congregation is able to look forward to the Phase one renovations beginning in June/July. This will mean that we can create a modernised more accessible church building that allows our local community to see that we are taking our life of service and mission seriously. Benefits will include modern loos, renewed flooring, more flexible space for concerts and gatherings. And for me, most importantly, in this the centenary year of the ending of the Great War we are creating a memorial chapel that honours the sacrifice of people of North Morningside Parish and the Congregational church that paid the supreme price for our liberties. This is a time of change and we all know this is always challenging. But we are assured in the scriptures that if we place Jesus at the centre of our work and lives then blessings will follow. In Matthew’s Gospel at 16 v33 we are told :

What’s on in May

2 May	Wednesday. Prayers in the sanctuary 5 pm. All welcome.
3 May	Thursday. Book Group. 7.30 pm. Bishop Holloway’s new book ‘Waiting for the Last Bus’.
9 May	Wednesday. Prayers in the sanctuary 5 pm. All welcome.
10 May	Thursday. 10.30-12.00 noon. Coffee morning in the small hall. All welcome. 
12 – 19 May	Christian Aid Week. The Annual Holy Corner Book Sale starts on Saturday 12 May. Tea and coffee will be available in the main hall on Saturday 12 th and 19 th . 
13 May	Sunday. Joint service with Christ Church at 10.00 am.
20 May	Sunday. The weekly service will be held in the Main Hall.
24 May	Thursday. 10.30-12.00 noon. Coffee morning in the small hall. All welcome. 



Seal of Isaiah

Eliat Mazar, an archaeologist associated with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has discovered a remarkable clay seal which appears to bear the name of the prophet Isaiah who lived in the eighth century BC. It was unearthed in the Ophel, an ancient fortified area located at the base of the southern wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

In her article in the March/April/May/June 2018 double issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, Mazar argues that the inscription on the seal should be translated as 'belonging to the prophet Isaiah'.

Isaiah is one of the more important Old Testament prophets who predicted the coming of Jesus, the Virgin Birth, the nature of being a messiah and the universal relevance of

Jesus' messianic identity to both gentiles and Jews. He also appears to have been an important court official worthy of his own seal.

The exciting discovery of the seal confirms something scholars have never doubted: that Isaiah was an historical figure, a court figure who lived and worked in Jerusalem.

According to the book of Isaiah he enjoyed a lengthy career that spanned the reigns of the kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah and appears to have been important enough to be called upon by King Hezekiah – one of the Bible's few 'good' kings.

Isaiah wrote some of the most eloquent, theologically significant and historically influential poetry in the Bible. In some circles he is known as 'The Fifth Evangelist', a title that implicitly places him on par with the writers of the Gospels.

Raalkam Educational Trust

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the Lent Bucket Appeal to buy laptops for Rev Viji Solomon and his wife Grace's training programme in Tamil Nadu, India, for orphaned and deserted girls with a view to them acquiring computer skills so that they may become employable in the locality. Special thanks to Max Carsely for organising a concert with fellow students from St Mary's Music School in aid of the project. The concert raised well over £200 and a total £1820 was raised. Solomon and Grace have now returned to India and we received a message of heartfelt thanks from them on 16th April. They had reached their home town of Nagercoil on 8th April.



Our Cross is on a Shoogly Peg!

Forth Pipe Organs are advising that the great high cross may have to come down or be better secured as it's come loose and may be interfering with the organ pipes. It's not quite clear what the problem is. It was gifted to the church over twenty-five years ago by a member and is a focal point and demonstration of our faith. Let's hope a solution can be found!





Remembering Cardinal Keith O'Brien

The Requiem Mass for Cardinal Keith O'Brien took place at the Church of St Michael in Newcastle on 5th April 2018.

Cardinal O'Brien lived within the parish of Morningside United Church and showed a lively interest in our ecumenical affairs. He delivered one of our Annual Lectures, speaking about the procedures for electing a Pope and about the Christianising of Scotland.

We both served as chair of Edinburgh Churches Together and I also knew him through his work in Roman Catholic schools in which I taught. Twice, in the past, I had occasion to seek his help in pastoral matters and I am pleased to affirm that his response was both swift and generous.

I can provide a resumé of his life and career for anyone who might wish it. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, however, at the Requiem Mass, said, in his homily, that we were not gathered in Newcastle

5 to recount the career or the

achievements of Keith O'Brien. Rather it was the purpose of the Requiem Mass to pray for God's mercy on the soul of the deceased. In his last will and testament, Cardinal O'Brien asked forgiveness of those whom he had offended, but I remember him as a friend, a good man and as a man of God.

- Max Allan

I never met Cardinal O'Brien but I vividly remember the day in September 2010 when he brought Pope Benedict to Edinburgh on a historic papal visit and the route of the 'Pope-mobile' to the Cardinal's house in Greenhill Gardens passed Morningside United Church.

I was standing with a crowd of well-wishers on the corner and Cardinal O'Brien looked so happy to bring Pope Benedict to us. Pope Benedict was a great Christian leader who encouraged Christians to be proud of our faith and make it more visible in the world. Outward signs of our faith and witness are diminishing in these secular times.

- Mairianna Clyde

I want to make this point you see, all of us at MUC, whether at home or work or at leisure are being called or chosen to play our part in the up building of the kingdom of God as ministers of the gospel of love, acceptance, care and compassion. This can be reflected in helping at the Book Sale, preparing the coffee mornings, visiting the old and sick, supporting the children's choir, worshipping and praying at home and in church or simply being supportive of our families or being the good neighbour to those we meet in our daily lives. We are the instruments of God's change.

So, over the spring and summer as many of you enjoy well deserved holidays please make an effort to pray for our congregation and for me as your minister at this time of opportunity and grace; but more than that pray for yourselves so that you too might play your part in ministry and service the whole people of God.

Every blessing!

Steven

The annual MUC fundraising coffee morning for Morlich House took place on April 28 2018 in the Main Hall.

Book Group

The Book Group reconvenes again with a new book at 7.30pm in the centre vestibule on 3rd May. This time it is Bishop Holloway's new book 'Waiting for the Last Bus'.

Morlich Coffee Morning

The annual Morlich coffee morning was well attended this year and was a great success despite the heavy April showers. We raised an amazing £820 which is an increase on last year. The total could be higher yet with the sale of the remaining plants. The money will be used to buy lamp posts for the 1950s street outside the 1950s house at Morlich. Many thanks to Yvonne and her fantastic team of helpers who worked so hard to make this a successful event.

