

# North Morningside: Highlights

**Holy Corner:** Takes its popular name from four churches, one built on each corner: Congregational (Calvinist, 1927-diagonally opposite McLaren's, now community centre), Baptist (1872 – originally Free Church - S. from McLaren's), Christ Church (Scottish Episcopal, 1878-adjacent to McLaren's) and finally Morningside United Presbyterian (1881-across from McLaren's, formerly Church of Scotland – world famous missionary and Olympian Eric Liddell was a member).

**Morningside:** A southern suburb infamous for its stereotyped socially anxious residents who spend too much of their scant income on trappings of a grand outward appearance, hence the saying: “*aw fur coats and nae knickers*”.

In the 1850s Morningside was still no more than a village on the main road consisting of a row of thatched houses and a blacksmith's forge – while beyond the Jordan Burn was open countryside. Nowadays it is predominantly residential. The name ‘Morningside’ likely dates to the C17th, taken from the name of a large estate, meaning ‘morning slope’. Growth of the suburb was greatly accelerated in the 1870s by the arrival of the horse-drawn trams and then boosted even more, in 1885, with the opening of the Edinburgh Suburban and South Side Junction Railway.

**Napier’s Tower:** Constructed sometime around the 1450s. Home to the influential and talented Napier family for over five centuries. Home to the renowned John Napier (1550-1617), the 8<sup>th</sup> Laird of Merchiston. Landowner, theologian, mathematician, physicist, astronomer, inventor of logarithms and of the decimal point – a true genius.

**Albert Terrace:** Built in 1863 and named after Queen Victoria's husband Albert. A heron stands at each end above the roof balustrade. Further East, Bank house, c.1790, is an L-plan group of houses with crowstepped gables. The childhood home of **Cosmo Gordon Lang**, an influential Anglican priest who, as archbishop of Canterbury, was closely involved in the abdication of King Edward VIII. He warned that Edward’s romance with the American divorcée Wallace Simpson could no longer be concealed from, or tolerated by, the British public and urged PM Baldwin to convince Edward to abdicate.

**John Livingston's Tomb:** Nestled among the living residents is the quiet, final resting place of an apothecary plague victim, who owned and lived in the adjacent property, and who fell victim to the Black Death in 1645.

**Former quarry, Bruntsfield Links:** Bruntsfield Links is the remainder of the old Burgh Muir - an area used as a hunting ground and as the "city quarry". The vacant intervals [between the quarry holes] became to be utilised by the citizens in pursuit of the popular game of golf. In this way, the links became one of the earliest known locations where the game of golf was played.