

Greenbank Connections



April 2017

Issue 660

Scottish Charity SCO11325



With the Moderator in Kenya (see page 7)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

Online version: www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/

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Minister's Letter

Dear Friends



From a personal point of view the timing of this edition of **Connections** works well because it allows me to share with all of you the news which I shared with those who were in Church on Sunday 12th March.

As most of you know my husband Sean received a call to the Parish of Fintray, Kinellar and Keithhall in Autumn last year and he has been ministering there since October. In the interim we have been seeking the way forward for me. I have now received an invitation to preach for the congregations of Tarves and Barthol Chapel, which I have accepted. I will be preaching for them on 2nd April so by the time you read this letter things may have moved forward even further!

Tarves and Barthol Chapel are two linked congregations in a beautiful setting in rural Aberdeenshire (near Oldmeldrum for those of you who are familiar with the north-east). This will obviously require a different focus of ministry from a city

charge and will undoubtedly bring new and different challenges for me. The last ten years of ministry in Greenbank have brought many blessings and I have greatly valued all the friendship and support which I have received from you. So it seems appropriate that a move should be to something quite different.

If things work out as we hope on 2nd April, then Greenbank Session will be turning their attention to the process of identifying the new minister whom God is leading to Greenbank. There are a lot of extra pressures on office-bearers at this time, and I'm sure you will continue to give them your prayerful support.

Change it seems is in the air this spring for churches in the south of Edinburgh, with the retiral of the minister of Fairmilehead and the temporary release from parish duties of the minister of Morningside to serve for a year as Moderator of the General Assembly. We wish John Munro well in his retirement and seek God's blessing on Derek Browning as he prepares to step into the Moderator's chair. And we remember both of our neighbouring congregations in prayer at this time of change.

As I am writing this letter I am very conscious of those familiar words of Psalm 121 which David Reid read for us during worship on 12th March.

"The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand...

...The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore".

Perhaps too it is in these times of change that we are most aware of the themes of letting go and taking up, of death and

resurrection, which are at the heart of the Christian faith and which receive a particular focus as we approach Easter and the Church's celebration of Christ's own death and resurrection. And I would like to assure you of a warm welcome at any or all of the services and events we have planned over the Easter period.

Wishing you every blessing,

Alison I Swindells
Parish Minister

Pulpit Diary

Apr 2 Fifth Sunday in Lent

9.30am First Sunday Service
led by House Group

10.30am Morning Worship (Young
Church: End of Second Term)

Apr 9 Palm Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship
(Activity for Children)

Apr 10 – 14

United Holy Week Services

7.30pm Morningside Parish Church

Apr 16 Easter Sunday

9.30am Communion

10.30am All Age Easter Celebration
followed by egg-rolling in
Braidburn Valley Park

Apr 23

10.30am Morning Worship (Young
Church: Start of Third Term)

Apr 30

10.30am Morning Worship followed by
informal communion service

May 7

9.30am First Sunday Service
led by Kirk Session

10.30am Morning Worship

YACHT Campaign

Photographic Competition 2017

Following our photographic competitions of the past two years, leading to Greenbank Calendars for 2016 and 2017, the YACHT Committee has decided to hold another competition this year with a view to creating a Greenbank Calendar for 2018.

You are invited to submit a photograph suitable for a month or season of the year, along with a reference to a line from a hymn or bible text. For example, see the photograph opposite, which was an entry for last year's competition. You may enter several photographs in the competition. Anyone can enter – individuals, families, groups of friends working together – but entries must be in by **end July 2017**.

The YACHT Committee has decided that the theme for photographs this year is to be ***Edinburgh and its Environs***. To be specific: *photographs should be taken in the Lothians within 10 miles of the East End of Princes Street*. This would include, for example, the new Queensferry Crossing.

Photographs (digital images only) should have a minimum size of 300mm wide x 210mm high, at a good resolution. They should be emailed to

greenbankparish@gmail.com

with a Subject line of '**Calendar 2018 Competition**'; include the hymn or bible reference in your email, and briefly describe the subject of your photograph. The orientation must be 'Landscape' (like the photograph opposite).

The thirteen photographs to appear in the Greenbank 2018 calendar – one for the cover and one for each month of the year – will be chosen by popular vote. We will

again display the entries in the corridor beside the Braid and Hermitage Rooms during the month of August.

In the event that two or more photographs of the same subject are submitted, the organisers, at their discretion, may select only one of these for the competition and advise the submitters accordingly. Otherwise the "vote might be split": for example, two photographs of puffins were submitted last year. Both were popular, but had there been only one it would probably have received sufficient votes to be included in the calendar.

Details of the voting procedure will be displayed alongside the photographs. Members of the congregation and visitors to Greenbank will be able to vote. Voting will finish at end August 2017.

Don't hold back – your creative juices can be set running now in support of this key fundraising effort!

John Murison
on behalf of the YACHT Committee

SLA Volunteer Administrator

We are looking for a part-time Volunteer Administrator as our dear Barbara is moving south. She will be a great loss as she is so much part of the team and loves the work. Anyone interested and good at administration who would like a very worthwhile stimulating part-time job in a happy atmosphere please do get in touch with the SLA Office (Tel 0131 629 9112).

Gillie Davidson



“He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings” (CH4: 137 v1)

Mrs Rachel McWilliam: Puffin, Isle of May

Friendship Club

We have almost come to the end of this Session when we’ve been entertained by excellent speakers. However our final meeting is the Outing on **Wednesday 10th May** when we hope to see *‘Sinbad the Sailor’* as performed by the Purves Puppets in their delightful little Victorian Theatre in Biggar. We will meet at the church at 12 noon and will return before 5pm.

There are a few spaces left so if you would like to join us (you do not need to be a member of the Friendship Club), contact **Val Smart**.



The Guild

Our winter session is drawing to a close with our ABM on 21st March. Prior to that we heard an entertaining talk on 7th March by Andrew Gibbs about his experiences working in the Scottish Courts and were fascinated on 21st February by Roy Johnstone's account of the work of women pilots during World War II flying military aircraft to their operational bases.

Details of our *Outing* and *Summer Coffee Mornings* will be given in the next edition of *Connections*.



Kathleen Patrick

Morlich House Coffee Morning

Morlich House in Church Hill is run by CrossReach, the Church of Scotland, and is home to 23 frail, elderly ladies. The Friends Group raise extra money each year to help. Tickets for the Coffee Morning are available from Anne Oxbrow. *Please support this good cause.*

Morlich House Residential Home for Older People



Coffee Morning

Saturday 22nd April 2017

(10am – 12noon)

**Garden, Gifts & Goodies Stalls
at Morningside United Church**

Hall, Holy Corner

(Enter off Chamberlain Road)

£2.50 entry includes coffee/tea/juice

CrossReach is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland –
a charity registered in Scotland No SC011353

Kenya Visit

The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev Dr Russell Barr, spent 10 days in Kenya to strengthen the Church of Scotland's historic partnership with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA).

The Church of Scotland delegation included Greenbank's Session Clerk, Valerie Macniven, who is Convener of the Africa and Caribbean Committee of the World Mission Council. It visited two churches in Kibera – the biggest slum in Africa.

At the start of their visit, the delegation was taken to the site of the original Free Church of Scotland Mission, which started in 1898. The first church is still standing, though in need of restoration. (The current church, which is the same age as our sanctuary, is a sturdy stone building.)

The visit coincided with the service for the World Day of Prayer



Interior of church at Thogoto, in the Kikuyu area of Nairobi



The original Free Church of Scotland Mission church

Socks, etc.



The Bethany team at the night shelter on 5th March were very grateful to receive four large bags of items for the homeless people as there were very few supplies left to offer them. Once again many thanks to the Greenbank congregation for donations of new or nearly new: socks, gloves, hats, scarves and men's underwear.



These can be left on the shelf above the food box in the vestibule.

Pauline Walker

Eco-Column

The last *Connections* issue featured an active update on the eco activities of our own Greenbank Pre School. This month we look at our priorities in the church buildings, and on the wider front of personal responses to respecting and preserving God's creation.

The Green Group's membership has now been expanded, and it has been looking closely at the Eco-Congregation's *Environmental Check-up tool*, to help develop a full action plan.

In practical measures, the Group has completed more energy efficient lighting upgrades (notably in the Lower Hall) where David and John Ferguson took on the job from the top of some rather uncertain step ladders! Priorities for the near future include more insulation and heating improvements in the office area, but it has been decided for the moment to hold back on more major

work until the future on heating sources and methods has been investigated further. A plan for 'greening up' the hall entrance area is to be drawn up – creative ideas on planters and related features would be welcomed.

In the run up to Lent, the Group also looked at a widely circulated letter from the Church of South India, encouraging

Christians to consider undertaking a 'Carbon Fast' during the Lenten period. The Fast has resonance for us as we start out to become an Eco-congregation, both

because of its focus on prayer and reflection on caring for God's creation, but also upon the practical actions that individuals can take to combat climate change locally.

The Fast features challenges – to simplify our lives, and to set our faces against the tide of consumerism. Living more simply

**“God is calling us
to be the change
we long to see.”**

means consuming less and being good environmental stewards – in areas such as waste recycling and fuel consumption among others. De-cluttering and passing on consumer goods we don't need to charitable use is an obvious move... and it's Jumble Sale time as well!

Respect for the growing environment is another theme. We are encouraged to plant more trees and wildlife friendly shrubs, as well as grow more food for our own and local consumption.

We have mentioned energy saving in detail before, but this is also a feature of the carbon fast, as is water conservation. The latter seems redundant sometimes in Scotland, but even reducing garden run off from block paved driveways helps to reduce flooding, and just using less water means that the need for infrastructure investment is reduced. Poor communities



in other parts of the world are suffering from water scarcity, as a consequence of climate change and we should not forget that water is a divine blessing, to be treasured and shared and protected for future generations.

The Church of South India's letter finishes in uncompromising terms: "our fossil fuel based throw-away economy is not a viable

model for the world. The alternative is a solar/hydrogen based economy, with effectively designed public transport and a comprehensive reuse/recycling approach. Only by coming together can we solve the climate crisis. God is calling us to be the change we long to see. What does God require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God? (*Micah 6:8*)".

David Jack

Lent/Easter Appeal 2017



Three nominations for our Lent/Easter Appeal charity were received from members. After discussion at the January Congregational Board meeting it was agreed that *The Open Door* in Morningside Road will be this year's recipient.

Alan Ramage

Life and Work: April 2017

An Unexpected Easter Feast

Jolyon Mitchell considers the impact and influence of art in telling the story of Emmaus and opening eyes

Clearing the Way at Christ's Baptismal Site

Tim Porter highlights the work of the Halo Trust, a charity involved in a key project to improve access to the site of Jesus' baptism

Easter Prayer

from the Moderator of the General Assembly

Bethlehem and Calvary

In his final reflection for Life and Work, the Very Rev Dr James Simpson highlights parallels between Bethlehem and Calvary

A Desire for Justice

Jackie Macadam interviews Val Brown, a Church of Scotland member who has opened her home to a Syrian refugee

From Reform to Renewal

The Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald introduces extracts from his new history of the Church

An Artistic Legacy

Alison Roberts pays tribute to the life of esteemed stained glass artist Crear McCartney

Christianity is Not Dead

Ron Ferguson argues that Christianity will not disappear in Scotland as humanity continues to seek meaning in life.

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords – all for just £2.20

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The **Gaelic Supplement for March** is available as a free download from our website: www.lifeandwork.org/about-us/gaelic-supplement

If you would like an email notification when it becomes available, please email us: magazine@lifeandwork.org



Christian Aid Event with Ian Rankin

Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm Fairmilehead Parish Church

Ian Rankin is perhaps one of the world's best known crime authors. His books have been translated into 22 languages and it's difficult to walk past a bar in Edinburgh without wondering if Rebus is lurking inside mulling over clues from his latest unsolved case.

To help understand how Ian Rankin moved from being a grape-picker to dominating the UK literary scene, come to our local Christian Aid Committee's latest "conversation" event, when Ian Rankin is interviewed by Eleanor Updale.

The event will take place on **Wednesday 19th April, at 7.30pm in Fairmilehead Parish Church**. The vote of thanks will be given by Ian Murray MP. Tickets are **£8 each**, with all proceeds going to Christian Aid.



Ian Rankin

David Ferguson



The next dates for Fresh Start collections are Sundays **30th April** and **28th May**, at a table in the Main Hall.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of those giving new and nearly new household items, I have continued to transport good quality goods down to the Ferry Road Drive warehouse. The starter packs, made up from the donations, are distributed to new tenants who would otherwise struggle to make their new accommodation into a home.

A full list of items needed by Fresh Start is given in last month's *Connections* and on the Fresh Start website. For further information, see me on a Fresh Start Sunday in the Main Hall, email me, or telephone the number below.

Alison Ambler
alison@ambler.me.uk

Easter One World Stall

Our next stall, on **Sunday 2nd April**, will be selling only Easter eggs, cards and chocolate. This will be available after the first service as well as after the main service.

These days Fairtrade goods are as diverse as wine to gardening gloves, household cleaning products to rice, so we should look out for them when we do our shopping. Fairtrade Fortnight has now come to its end, but we should still remember that by buying fairly traded items we are helping workers get a fair wage as well as ensuring their rights are upheld. Communities can also receive a Premium if they work as a Fairtrade co-operative. This Premium can be spent on schools, roads, and medical services.

WM for February/March 2017, the World Mission Council's magazine, has more articles about this: it can be found on their website at www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Scottish Love in Action

SLA are organising another India Volunteer Work Venture in November and would be happy to hear from anyone in the age range from 18 to 75, who would like to apply.

Please contact the SLA Office, Tel 0131 629 9112, or email enquiries@sla-india.org for the application form and send by email to the office or by post to

Scottish Love in Action,
2nd Floor, Charteris Centre,
140 Pleasance,
Edinburgh EH8 9RR

as soon as possible so that we can begin the process of briefings and – importantly – the booking of the flights as soon as possible.

From a Volunteer:

“If I could give any piece of advice to someone preparing for this trip, I would say just take it all in, keep your eyes open, embrace what makes you emotional. Love the children with all your heart because they love you right back, learn all you can while you are there and love the new culture for what it is, not what you expected it to be, because

getting off that plane in Kolkata changes everything you thought you knew about India. The children taught me not to be obsessed by the value of material possessions but rather to value true friendship and love over everything. I believe we contributed most, simply in the attention we gave the children.

“This trip was one of the hardest things I have done in my life. But how rewarding the experience was. I have never felt further out of my comfort zone and I have never been so graciously rewarded for that feeling of dis-

comfort. I met the most amazing people and learned so much but at the same time, adapted to a life style completely different from mine. I went without family, which was stressful at times, but ended up gaining a new kind of family. Every aspect that was difficult only gave the trip more importance in my eyes and I developed a confidence and courage I did not know I had.”

Gillie Davidson



CARING FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA

Intergenerational Tea

In the first of more to come, Springboard hosted its first intergenerational tea. The word scramble for the afternoon proved fun and challenging for both Springboard and those in attendance!

Steve Chaffee





Scouts @ Greenbank

Be prepared for "probably the best..."

JUMBLE

sale

...in Edinburgh"

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017 : 9.30am – 12 noon
GREENBANK CHURCH, BRAIDBURN TERRACE, EH10 6ES

- ★ clothes - adults & children
- ★ small furniture
- ★ toys
- ★ books - adults & children
- ★ electricals
- ★ jewellery
- ★ bric a brac
- ★ dvds, cds & lps
- ★ sports gear
- ★ garden furniture
- ★ lighting
- ★ home baking, teas & coffees

4th Morningside Scout Group is registered as a Charity, number CR43781.

Adults £2

Reflections on Lent

Calendars are fascinating to me. The extent to which calendars inform our lives and aid enculturation is incalculable. The common calendar in the West is a hodge-podge of Greek, Roman, and Celtic influences. The Christian calendar is, itself, a hodge-podge of celebrations, frequently adapted from pagans during evangelisation, and borrows liberally from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament.

In Lent, we begin the same journey the Hebrews and Jesus began with 40 days in the wilderness. (I am happy sometimes that Lent isn't 40 years long!) They were 40 days of fasting, praying, and preparation – rather like how athletes begin pre-season training. In Lent, we are given a whole season to get into 'pre-season' training. We are encouraged to feel guilty about our sins; to be one of the 'elect' (whatever we mean by that!) is to know, better than everyone else, that we fail the demands of love more often than we succeed.

Commenting on Lent, a Roman Catholic once encouraged me: 'We Catholics never forget that, in our tradition, both despair and presumption are sins.' Lent is a season in which we get the chance to live out this word of wisdom. Given the cross of Christ, it does not belong to Christians to despair – though we might. Likewise, and because of the same cross, it does not belong to Christians to be so certain of our own status – though we might. In either extreme, we find our wills sapped – a sort of spiritual ennui takes us. But let it not take us!

Lent challenges us to be roused from our individual and communal failures and begin a kind of 'pre-season training'. We might fast from technology. From certain food. From complaining. Any of those things which so easily entangle us. We might dedicate ourselves to praying more. But these physical observances are for the purpose of spiritual action. They are for learning how to use our wills – which are more dangerous than most expect.

Our sins of omission and commission have allowed many problems to occur and intertwine across the globe. And indeed, that job is too big for any individual to accomplish. But not for groups. We are placed uniquely to help, you guessed it, our neighbours. In helping our neighbours, we'll help our neighbourhoods. And our neighbourhoods can help other neighbourhoods, eventually nations, and from there, the world. But it starts with an act of the will – and like any other habit, we need to train the habit of loving well.

This Lent, I hope you will join me as we walk with Jesus in the desert places of our lives. As Jesus prepared himself for his ministry and set his face toward Jerusalem, may we also prepare ourselves for our ministry to the world, and set our faces toward the New Jerusalem. Let us not despair, so that we think nothing can be accomplished. Nor be presumptuous, that we think we need not love our neighbours today. Instead, let us get out our training equipment and return to the fundamentals.

Steve Chaffee
Youth Associate

Congregational Register

*Omitted from the
on-line version of
Greenbank Connections*

Welcome Teams

April

- 2 Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay
- 9 Caroline Kehoe**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Ian McWilliam, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 16 Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 23 Rosemary McCulloch**, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Toby Tucker, Alastair Ross



Coffee Rota

April

- 2 Janet & David Ferguson** (D26, D28 & D13)
- 9 Clifford Hastings** (D61A)
- 16 Caroline Kehoe** (D70)
- 23 David Jack** (D72)
- 30 BAGs**



May

- 7 Rachel McWilliam** (D58)

Flower Rota



Provided by *Delivered by*

April

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 2 Janet Ferguson | Joan Cameron |
| 9 Jill Powlett Brown | Charlotte Tucker |
| 16 Easter | Margaret Mack |
| 23 Janet Walker | Fiona Watt |
| 30 Moira Davidson | Sandra Robertson |

May

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 7 Margo Fraser | Catherine Ferguson |
|-----------------------|--------------------|

Crèche Rota



April

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 Ailsa Cameron | Jenny Wright |
| 9 Isobel Thom | Shona Murray |
| 16 Carrie Reid | Ailsa Cameron |
| 23 Eileen McKinnon | Lorna Htet-Khin |
| 30 Ailsa Cameron | Hazel McLachlan |

May

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 7 Janet Ferguson | Nora Kellock |
|-------------------------|--------------|

Greenbank Calendar: April 2017

April

2 Sun		Fifth Sunday in Lent
2 Sun	9.30	First Sunday Service, led by House Group
2 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship Young Church: end of second term
8 Sat	9.30	Scout Jumble Sale
9 Sun		Palm Sunday
9 Sun	10.30	Palm Sunday Worship
10–14 Apr	19.30	United Holy Week Services (at Morningside Parish Church)
16 Sun		Easter Day
16 Sun	9.30	Communion
16 Sun	10.30	All Age Easter Celebration followed by egg-rolling in Braidburn Valley Park
18 Tues	19.30	Trustees Meeting
23 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship Young Church: start of third term
30 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship followed by Informal Communion

May

6 Sat	12.00	Friendship Club outing
7 Sun	9.30	First Sunday Service, led by Kirk Session
	10.30	Morning Worship

The pastoral team can be contacted through the Church Office or directly:

Rev Alison Swindells

tel and fax: 0131 447 4032

email: alisonswindells@blueyonder.co.uk

Rev W. Peter Graham

tel: 0131 445 5763

For information about church organisations, please contact the Church Office:

*(Mon–Fri, 8.30am–12.00 noon,
1.30pm–3.00pm)*

Mrs Virginia Johnston

tel and fax: 0131 447 9969

email: greenbankchurch@btconnect.com

To make contact with any organisation featured in Greenbank Connections, please use the telephone number given, if there is one. Otherwise please contact the Church Office.

Website: www.greenbankchurch.org

*Postal address: Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 6ES*

Material for the May issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 16th April, or emailed by 9am on Tuesday 18th April to greenbankconnections@gmail.com

Welcome Teams (Continued from p15)

April

30 Ian Thom, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Catriana Black

May

7 Keith Winton, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo