

# Leaflet



Greenbank Parish Church  
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES  
No 650 March 2016

## Pulpit Diary

### Mar 4 Friday

10.30am World Day of Prayer Service  
(at Morningside Parish Church)

7.30pm Pre-communion Service

### Mar 5 Saturday

4.00pm Families @ 4  
Greenbank's Messy Church

### Mar 6 Fourth Sunday in Lent

9.00am Communion

10.30am Communion (Crèche, Spectrum  
and Springboard meet as usual)

3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

### Mar 13 Fifth Sunday in Lent

10.30am Morning Worship with Annual  
Business Meeting

### Mar 20 Palm Sunday

10.30am Morning Worship (End of term  
for Springboard and Spectrum)

### Mar 21–25 (Monday to Friday) United Holy Week Services

7.30pm at Greenbank Parish Church

### Mar 27 Easter Sunday

9.30am Communion

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

### Apr 3

9.30am First Sunday Service led by  
Monday House Group

10.30am Morning Worship

To make contact with any of the organisations referenced in this Leaflet, please use the telephone no given, if there is one. Otherwise please contact the Church Office. Website: [www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)

## Minister's Letter

### Dear Friends

As you know since my last letter I have been in Pittsburgh for the second school of the Doctorate in Ministry. Apart from arriving in America just as storm Jonas was about to hit the Eastern Seaboard, all went well. This school had a very different feel to it from the one in Edinburgh last June – perhaps because nearly



*of God were being fulfilled; if they could see that this new community in the village represented a new kind of body in which the old divisions of caste and education and temperament were being transcended in a new form of brotherhood. If they could not see anything of the kind, they would not be likely to believe.*

all of us in the programme were staying on the campus of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. It was an opportunity to get to know one another better and share some insights into ministry in different contexts and continents. This was not unrelated to the two subjects we were studying – Church and Mission.

Perhaps the greatest challenge to the Church in Scotland today is how we learn to participate in God's mission of love to the world. How do we share our faith in a way that is respectful of others yet in a way that is still authentic to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? I was struck by something that Bishop Lesslie Newbigin, who served as a missionary in India during the twentieth century, wrote about his experiences of the church there in a pluralist society. In the villages he was often asked to speak to groups of Hindus and Muslims. Then he would hold the service of worship. This is what he writes:

*I have often stood at the door of a little church, with the Christian congregation seated on the ground in the middle of a great circle of Hindus and Muslims standing around. As I have opened the Scriptures and tried to preach the Word of God to them, I have always known that my words would carry little weight, would only be believed, if those standing around could recognise in those seated in the middle that the promises*

That raises questions for us. How do we as individuals live our lives in faithfulness to the Gospel? Do we bear witness to God's love forming and shaping our days and our relationships? Do we really believe that God's reign is becoming a reality in our own lives and if so how do we share this promise with others? As a community how are we distinctive in our worship and our witness and in our life together? How do we welcome others into that life in a way that allows them to see beyond us and our church buildings to the God who creates, redeems and sustains? You don't need me to tell you that your faith is important to you. If it wasn't you wouldn't be coming to worship week by week or reading this letter. Why then are we so hesitant to speak to others about what we believe and why we believe it?

As we journey through Lent this year we could do worse than reflect on these questions – remembering always that the good news of Easter is that the risen Christ does not leave us on our own but waits to give us, through his Spirit, the resources we need to serve and witness in ways that are appropriate to our time and culture.

With warmest wishes,

**Alison I Swindells**  
Parish Minister



ALPHA IS A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE SESSIONS  
EXPLORING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.  
THERE IS NO PRESSURE, NO FOLLOW UP AND NO CHARGE.

## @ GREENBANK PARISH CHURCH

MONDAY NIGHTS FROM 1 FEBRUARY TO 14 MARCH

6:45PM – 9:30PM

EACH SESSION BEGINS WITH A MEAL.

ALPHA IS OPEN TO EVERYONE AND IS FREE.

TO REGISTER CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

447 9969 OR VISIT [WWW.GREENBANKCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.GREENBANKCHURCH.ORG)

## Friendship Club

As usual our meetings in February on the following subjects, *Harry Lauder*, *Romance* and *'Smart' Hats* were interesting and excellent. The meetings in March are all "in-house", beginning on 9th March when Club member Walter Crosby will be taking us to the *Holy Land*, visiting many historical and biblical sites and walking in the footsteps of Our Lord.

Kathleen's musical afternoon on the 16th continues the *Sacred Influences* theme and on the 23rd, though probably with a greater variety of music, we present our own *Desert Island Discs*.

Our *Outing on 11th May* is to visit the "Kelpies". Having seen them from afar on a previous outing, it will be magical to see them up close; so beautiful, so amazing.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact me.

Val Smart

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

e-mail: [greenbankchurch@btconnect.com](mailto:greenbankchurch@btconnect.com)

The pastoral team can be contacted through the Church Office:

Rev Alison Swindells

tel and fax: 0131 447 4032

email: [alisonswindells@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alisonswindells@blueyonder.co.uk)

Rev W. Peter Graham

tel: 0131 445 5763

Youth Minister: Rev Bill Stone

tel: 07883 815 598

email: [billstoneiii@gmail.com](mailto:billstoneiii@gmail.com)

## Christian Aid Collection 2016

*Christian Aid Week 15th – 21st May 2016*

Christian Aid continues to be well supported at Greenbank through local events and our annual Christmas collection, but we need to sustain this momentum as



our thoughts turn to this year's house to house collection in May. Last year's total for the house-to-house collection amounted to £4,731.53 which was nearly £1,000 up on 2014, despite only the same number of envelopes being collected. The amount gift aided was estimated to have been slightly less than the previous year but still helped to give an additional amount over and above what was put into the envelopes. I was very grateful for all the support and help you gave me in the preparation and carrying-out of the collection, and of course, to all the donors.

Although Christian Aid week may seem far away, preparation work is starting now and we need a team of collectors to cover all the streets in the parish. Thank you again to those who collected last year and I hope that most of you will be able to collect again. I shall be contacting you over the next few weeks but for anyone who is thinking of 'retiring' as a collector and/or has already booked a holiday for the above dates I would be very grateful if you could "ask a friend" to take over your houses, preferably before I speak to you!

I know that I will need some new collectors to share the load. Please contact me if you would like to play a part in this important mission.

It may seem a bit daunting to take a collection on for the first time, and I can't legislate for the weather, but most people actually enjoy the experience, which makes new connections in the community and boosts our presence on a wider front in Greenbank. It takes up to about an hour to deliver the envelopes and about three hours collection time through the week. Most people do this over two early evening slots and sometimes couples take on an area between them. There is a Collector's Guide with plenty of useful information given to every collector. I am also looking for administrative help nearer the time to assist me in preparing the bags/envelopes for collectors and also for counting up on the 22nd May, after the 10.30am service.

Pam Jack

(Email [pamelajacko6@gmail.com](mailto:pamelajacko6@gmail.com))

## Accounts for 2015

The Church accounts for the year to December 2015 were presented to, and approved by, the Board at its January 2016 meeting. A summary of these accounts is enclosed with this *Leaflet*. The Church accounts will be discussed at the Annual Business Meeting held during the 10.30am Service on **Sunday 13th March 2016**.

Robert Young

(Departing) Treasurer

## Wanted – Your Favourite Recipes



It is 20 years since Greenbank published a recipe book. Times change; we now have a much wider range of ingredients available. Foreign travel and ethnic restaurants at home have enlarged our expectations. So now, in aid of the Yacht Campaign, we would like to produce a new recipe book which will hopefully reflect the range of foods we now eat, as well as some old favourites.



We hope to fill a book with recipes in the following sections:

- Starters
- Baking
- Mains
- Cooking for or with Children
- Desserts
- Seasonal – Easter, Christmas (Pentecost?)

Forms for entries will be available on the Greenbank website ([www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)), in Church or through church groups and organisations. Electronic forms should be returned by email to [greenbankrecipes@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankrecipes@gmail.com); and paper forms to the Church Office or to one of the Recipe Committee below. Please pass on a form to any Greenbank Diaspora with whom you are in touch.

There will be a space on the form for Comments – like “I use this recipe for birthday cakes” or “Dear old Auntie Jeannie gave me this when I was first married” or “the children like to do this one on their own”.

If you get recipes from books (by phone-photo maybe?), please tell us how you tweak it to your taste, or your experience in using it.

In order to have the recipe book on sale during Yacht Week, we have set a deadline of *Sunday 29th May 2016*.

**Alison Murison, Edith Armit, Carrie Reid**

## BAGs

Blokes at Greenbank would like to invite all men aged 18-118 to the return of the popular “*Curry and Quiz Night*”. Come along as a team, with friends or on your own – all very welcome! For more information or to sign up, speak with

**Kenny Htet-Khin or the Rev Bill Stone**



**Dates for your Diary:** Please note that the next dates for Fresh Start collections are **21st April** and **22nd May** at the Sunday service (table in Main Hall).

Thank you to everyone who donated items in good condition or indeed new items, last month for the starter pack scheme. Cleaning things such as jay cloths, dish cloths and yellow dusters are in short supply. See below for a full list of household goods wanted.

### Dishes and Crockery

Dinner plates, side plates, bowls, cutlery, mugs, glass tumblers, tea-towels.

### Pots and Pans, etc

Pots with lids, milk pans, frying pans, plastic boxes, cooking utensils, can openers, potato peelers, wooden spoons.

### Cleaning Things

Washing up basins, washing-up liquid, toilet cleaner, toilet rolls, hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dust pans and brushes, pedal bin liners, rubbish bags, all purpose cleaner, laundry tablets.

### Bed Linen and Towels

Single flat sheets, double flat sheets, single duvet covers, double duvet covers, pillow cases, blankets, duvets, bed covers, towels, face cloths, bath mats, curtains, rugs.

### Small Household Electrical Items (Not TVs).

Pick up a leaflet on a Fresh Start Sunday, telephone 476 7741, or see [www.freshstartweb.org.uk](http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk), to find out more about Fresh Start.

**Alison Ambler**

**BAG'S  
CURRY  
& QUIZ  
NIGHT!**

8 PM  
£7.50

**THURSDAY 10TH MARCH**

Centenary Hall  
Greenbank Parish Church  
Braidburn Terrace  
Edinburgh, EH10 6ES

To sign up, please add your name to the list on the noticeboard outside the Church Office or contact us at [greenbankbags@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankbags@gmail.com)

## Photographic Competition – Greenbank Calendar 2017



*“From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.” (Psalm 113 v3)*

*Mr David Allan: Sunset, Rio Negra, Brazil*

Following our photographic competition last year, leading to the well-received Greenbank Calendar for 2016, the YACHT Committee has decided to do it all again – i.e. hold another photographic competition, leading to a Greenbank Calendar for 2017. You are invited to submit a photograph suitable for a month of the year, along with a reference to a line from a hymn or bible text. For example, see the photograph above, which was an entry for the 2016 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 2016**.

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](mailto:greenbankparish@gmail.com) with a Subject line of ‘Calendar 2017 Competition’; include the hymn or bible line reference in your email. The orientation must be ‘Landscape’ (like the above photograph).

We have decided that the thirteen photographs to appear in the 2017 calendar – one for the cover and one for each month of the year – should be chosen this year by popular vote rather than by a panel of judges.

As noted, the deadline for submission of photographs is end July 2016. However, we plan to display, within the church premises, photographs submitted as soon as we have received 20 entries, so the sooner you submit your photographs the longer they will be on display.

Details of the voting procedure will be displayed alongside the photographs. Members of the congregation and friends will be able to vote. Voting will finish at end August 2016.

*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

## World Day of Prayer

### Prepared by the women of Cuba

*‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name... there I will be also.’*

Will you join us?

Every year on the first Friday in March, Christians around the world of all ages gather in small groups and large congregations to use the same basic form of worship. This is written by women of a different country each year on a theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer International Committee. This year the service is on **Friday 4th March 2016** and will be held in Morningside Parish Church at **10.30am**. It has been prepared by the women of Cuba and has the title “Receive children, receive me”.

**Margaret Barrowman**



## World Mission

A consultation to develop closer links with the Presbyterian Church in Egypt is being considered, following the recent 10 day visit by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison, to Egypt. He was accompanied by his wife Marion, the Youth Moderator Hannah Mary Goodlad, and the Rev Ian Alexander and Kenny Roger from the World Mission Council. They had lunch and discussions with the Rev Dr Andrea Zaki and members of the ecumenical group of Protestant Churches in Egypt. The Rev Dr Zaki explained the difficulties faced by Egypt's estimated 15 million Christians and said the fate of Christianity in the region is now in the balance.

*"The Christian community in Egypt now holds the hopes for Arab Christians. Millions have been forced to leave Iraq and Syria and Lebanon is in a state of tension. We need our partner churches to speak out loudly for the future of Christians in the whole region."*

During their visit, the Group spent a day at St Andrew's United Church where they witnessed the hopelessness of the situation facing those refugees from Syria, North- and sub-Saharan Africa who cannot return to their homes. St Andrew's Church, which was built by the Church of Scotland over 100 years ago, expects to provide help for 11,500 men, women and children this year. The St Andrews Refugee Service is one of the few places refugees can go to access healthcare, legal advice, training, education and support. There are 190,000 refugees registered in Cairo and 65% of them are Syrian. Only a small percentage of refugees are successful in getting resettled through the United Nations and many of the others try their luck crossing the Mediterranean.

The Rt Rev Dr Morrison says he will be pressing their case for the rest of his term as Moderator.

*"When you meet these people and realise their situation, you feel compelled to do something about it. As a country, we should be able to offer sanctuary to greater numbers than the 20,000 the UK government has committed to. As a Church we support that, and this experience has only made me more determined to push the case appropriately whenever I can."*

**Christina Morrow**

*The Rev Professor David Fergusson and the Rev Alison Swindells were photographed before the 10.30am service on 14th February 2016.*

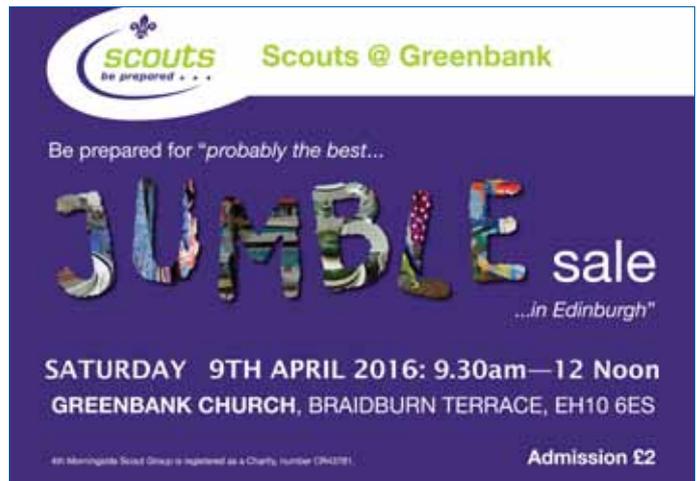
*Professor Fergusson preached the sermon. (David offered a 'short sermon' as part of the YACHT Auction of Talents, primarily in order to give Alison more time for her academic studies.)*



## Greenbank Scout Group

### Annual Jumble Sale

**Saturday 9th April: 9.30am–12 noon**



During the week **Monday 4th – Friday 8th April** (evenings only, 6.30pm–8.30pm), our Scouts will be calling on houses in this area to collect items to sell, such as:

- Books and toys
- Clothing
- Crockery
- Working Electrical Goods
- Small items of Furniture
- Glassware; Hardware
- Pictures and Mirrors
- Records, DVDs and CDs
- Soft furnishings
- any other saleable items

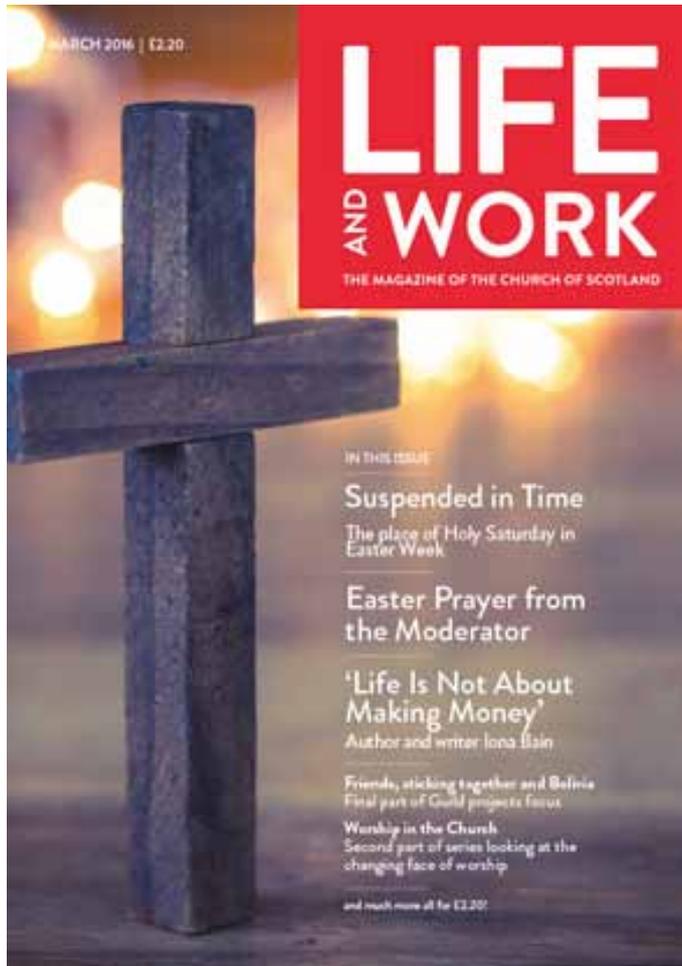
All offers of help collecting or displaying items and on the day will be gratefully received.

Unsold items will be offered to charities before disposal.

Please do come along on **Saturday 9th April**

Tea/coffee and home baking on sale. **Admission £2.**

## March Issue of *Life and Work*



### **Easter 2016**

The Rev Professor David Fergusson considers the place of Holy Saturday in the journey to Easter

Easter prayer from the Moderator of the General Assembly

Ron Ferguson ponders the place of Easter in Scotland today

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson considers the message of hope on the road to Emmaus

### **'Life is Not About Making Money'**

Jackie Macadam meets Iona Bain, a young Christian and writer on ethical finance

### **Friends, Sticking Together and Bolivia**

The final three projects chosen by the Guild for their latest partnership programme

### **Tales of Iona**

Dr David R Smith highlights the development of a new game designed to share the treasures of Iona with a new generation

### **A Medieval Parish**

John R Hume traces the rich history of Currie Parish Church

### **An Enduring Legacy**

During a Moderatorial visit to Egypt, the Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison discovers that a 'forgotten' Scottish missionary is still revered by the country's Christians

### **The Uncharted Waters**

Hannah Mary Goodlad draws parallels between fishing and faith. Plus news, letters, reviews and crosswords, all for just £2.

**Online:** Visit [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org), or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

## Lent / Easter Appeal 2016



At its January meeting the Congregational Board decided that the monies raised in this year's appeal should be shared equally between two charities: the Edinburgh Clothing Store ([www.edinburghclothingstore.org](http://www.edinburghclothingstore.org)) and Autism Initiatives' Hermitage Centre<sup>†</sup> ([www.autisminitiatives.org/social-enterprises/the-hermitage/](http://www.autisminitiatives.org/social-enterprises/the-hermitage/)).

**Alan Ramage**

<sup>†</sup>The Hermitage Centre is a social enterprise run and managed by Autism Ventures Scotland. Set in 22 acres of the beautiful Braid Hills, the Hermitage Centre is a peaceful place, boasting a 12 hole golf course. The clubhouse has a large café area, dance studio and therapy room which can be hired on a regular or "one off" basis. Anyone can visit and enjoy the Centre. Play golf, call in to the café for breakfast, lunch or tea – or just have a fantastic cup of coffee and enjoy a walk on the beautiful Braid Hills.

## A Musical Mix

The Guild's Fundraising concert on 16th February proved to be great fun. The very lively Auld Spice Ceilidh Band provided a range of Scots traditional music, with lots of well-known songs for us all to sing along with. Kate Gieben, a Jazz and Pop singer, took us back to the 60s and 70s as well as some of the great standards, all with a blend of enthusiasm and humour. It was a great night in spite of the weather. We raised over £400 for *Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia*.

**Edith Armit, Sharie Perks**



*Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia* will work with over 700 families, supporting them to build and use solar powered ovens

*Omitted from the Online  
version of the Leaflet*

## Welcome Teams

### March

- 6** **Keith Winton**, Eileen Campbell, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo
- 13** **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Jenny Wright, Sandy Cameron, Carrie Reid, Moira Land, Julia Dunbar
- 20** **John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, Clare Campbell, Susan Jackman
- 27** **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay

### April

- 3** **John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Hazel Macaulay, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Mark Fergusson

## The Guild

In the past month we have had two very interesting meetings. The Rev Peter Graham spoke about the Guild Theme for this year, *Go in Peace*. He showed us the Biblical background, which led to a very interesting discussion. We appreciated the trouble he had taken to prepare such a thought provoking session. The other meeting was on *Caring for Mother Earth*, the Guild project we are supporting this year. It is a Christian Aid programme in Bolivia which is supplying solar ovens to villages whose homes, possessions and crops were destroyed by floods. It is proving to be very effective and has far reaching effects for the health, education and prosperity of the villages.

Edith Armit, Sharie Perks



## Flower Rota

*Provided by*

*Delivered by*



### March

- |           |                  |                |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>6</b>  | Winton Family    | Eleanor Winton |
| <b>13</b> | Doreen Milliken  | Joan Cameron   |
| <b>20</b> | Rona Sommerville | Pam Adair      |
| <b>27</b> | Ishbel Emery     | Pauline Walker |

### April

- |          |             |          |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| <b>3</b> | Anne Oxbrow | Ruth Ray |
|----------|-------------|----------|

## Crèche Rota

### March

- |           |                  |               |
|-----------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>6</b>  | Ailsa Cameron    | Carrie Reid   |
| <b>13</b> | Vivien Hutchison | Lorna Perris  |
| <b>20</b> | Margot Fergusson | Ailsa Cameron |
| <b>27</b> | Pauline Walker   | Anne Kinnear  |



## Coffee Rota

### March

- |           |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>6</b>  | Communion ( <i>no coffee</i> ) |
| <b>13</b> | Springboard                    |
| <b>20</b> | Library Team                   |
| <b>27</b> | Flower Group                   |

### April

- |          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| <b>3</b> | David Jack (D72) |
|----------|------------------|



## Christmas Gifts

### *Letter from the Prison Service (abridged)*

Once again, I would like to thank you all personally for your generosity and kindness. Over two hundred children received gifts through this year's gift collection.

I collected from twenty one churches in the Edinburgh area. The first collection was on the 24th of November; the last on the 22nd of December.

I distributed the gifts between the prison and the visitors' centre. We were able to ensure that every child that visited the prison during the festive period received a gift. The total number of children involved was 247 and the total number of gifts issued was 556.

*Thank you once again for your support.*

via Janet Ferguson

Have you looked at the Greenbank website yet?

[www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)

Material for the April *Leaflet* should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 13th March, or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 15th March to [greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com](mailto:greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com)

## CONCERNING WORSHIP – DECENTLY AND IN ORDER

**According to Mark Twain, familiarity breeds contempt.** But is this always true? Very often the better we come to know another person, the more we grow to like them. The more we are exposed to something, the more we come to appreciate it. Perhaps, however, over-familiarity can lead us to imagine we know all that we need to know about someone or something. They lose whatever significance they have for us. There is a possibility that familiarity may lead to complacency.

**This can happen with our attitude to public worship.** We think we know what is going on when the congregation gathers at 10.30 on a Sunday morning. Whether we attend regularly or are no longer able to be there as often we may wish, whether we are only present from time to time or on special occasions, most of us reckon we are fairly familiar with what happens in a typical church service. But do we really know what's going on? Do we understand why week by week worship follows more or less the same pattern, why we do the same kind of things in the same sequence, why we follow an Order of Service?

**The form of worship familiar to the first Christians was that of the synagogue.** They adopted the synagogue pattern with its emphasis on hearing and responding to God's word, and rejoicing in what God had done, and made it uniquely their own. At an early stage this borrowing from the synagogue was combined with the legacy of the upper room. On the evening of his arrest, the night before he was executed, Jesus gathered his disciples together for a meal in an upper room in the city of Jerusalem. He took a comfortingly familiar ritual meal and gave it a new meaning and a quite unexpected and puzzling significance. The central act of Christian worship was understood as a unity, combining the reading and exposition of the Scriptures (the service of the Word) with Holy Communion or the Lord's Supper (the Upper Room). For various reasons, practical, cultural and doctrinal, we still do not celebrate Communion as frequently as our reforming forefathers of the 16th century would have wished. The result is that what most people regard as "normal" is actually incomplete, a truncated version of the whole, because it omits the sacramental part.

**At the heart of our worship are hearing and responding to God's word, mediated and expressed through human speech.** When we come together for worship, we believe that God speaks to us as the Bible is read and expounded and made visible in the Sacraments. This is why at the beginning of a service the Bible is solemnly carried in and placed in the pulpit as a symbol of the authority of the Word of God. In the early centuries a typical service would launch straight into readings from the Bible and preaching. Nowadays we approach God in praise and prayer, focussing on God and God's character as made known in the Bible and through Jesus. Only after that do we acknowledge our own shortcomings and failures as the people of God and as individuals. In churches where there are children present, it makes sense to have a time with them before they leave the sanctuary to continue with activities appropriate to their age and understanding.

**At this point there is a clear sense of progression as we move to the next part of worship.** After a time for reflection, there are normally two readings from the Bible, one from the Old Testament (or Hebrew Bible, as some now call it) and the second from the New Testament. In between the choir sings an anthem, often a setting of words from the Bible. In some churches there may be three readings, the second being from the Epistles of the New Testament and third invariably from the Gospels. While at one time the choice of readings was entirely the preacher's, in many churches a three-year cycle of readings is followed. This scheme, the Lectionary, contains a list of Bible passages appointed to be read on a particular Sunday. The use of a lectionary rescues congregations from the personal favourites of one person. Listening to the different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith. Following the readings and essentially related to them is the sermon. For many people this is the central part of worship, the part where through the explanation of the Bible and of basic Christian beliefs worshippers may not only receive guidance, comfort and inspiration but be strengthened in faith and assisted in their growth to full Christian maturity.

**We then respond to what has been said and heard.** Our gifts are collected and placed on the holy Table. The money given on a Sunday and the contributions made by other means are gestures of gratitude, tokens of love, signs of commitment, symbols of our discipleship. With the offering of our money we offer ourselves, all that we have, all that we are, all we can be, to be taken and used by God for the growth of the Kingdom and the spread of the Gospel. We continue our response to God's word as in faith and love we offer to God our concerns, intercede for the needs of the church, of the world, and of individuals. We are then sent out into the world with the words of God's blessing in our ears and a greater awareness of God's love in our hearts.

**What is missing?** No mention has been made of the hymns, psalms and songs we sing. These require a whole page to themselves. They give everyone present an opportunity to express themselves. Like prayers, they are usually addressed to God and frequently tell of what God has done. The congregation's response can be expressed through appropriate items of praise. They can sum up what has been read and said. They can assist us move from one section of a service to the next. And they can be addressed directly to the worshipper, deepening faith, encouraging hope and promoting love to God and one another.

**Worship includes times when we speak to one another.** There is the word of welcome after the opening choral item has been sung. There are the announcements, alerting us to what our fellow members will be doing in coming days. Sometimes the congregation will join in various responses. This reminds us of the communal nature of our approach to God. We come to meet our God and we meet our neighbour in the pew first. It is as a community that Christians worship and members of any community talk to one another. God speaks to us; we address God; and we speak to one another. All these are vital parts of our worship as the people of God at Greenbank.