

Leaflet



Greenbank Parish Church
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES

No 653 June–August 2016

Pulpit Diary

Jun 3 Friday

7.30pm pre-Communion Service

Jun 5

9.00am Communion

10.30am Communion (Springboard and Spectrum meet as normal)

3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

Jun 12

10.30am Morning Worship

Jun 19

10.30am Young Church Celebration
Followed by All Church
Barbecue

Jun 26 – Aug 7 inclusive

9.30am Summer Early Service

10.30am Morning Worship (Crèche and special provision for children)

Aug 14

10.30am All Age Worship with children from Ancora Holiday Club followed by All Church Barbecue (Farewell to Bill!)

Aug 21

10.30am Morning Worship (Young Church start of first term)

Aug 28

10.30am Morning Worship

Sept 2 Friday

7.30pm pre-Communion Service

Sept 4

9.00am Communion

10.30am Communion (Young Church meets as normal)

3.00pm Communion (Braid Room)

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

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

A lot has happened since the last edition of the *Leaflet*. The most significant thing is that our Youth Minister, Rev Bill Stone is now Minister-Elect of New Vernon First Presbyterian Church, New Jersey, USA. He preached as sole nominee for that congregation on 8th May and received a unanimous call. We



congratulate Bill, although we are sorry to see him go. Over the last five years he has become a big part of the life of this congregation, not only in his work with the young people and families, through Holiday Club, Messy Church and “Young Church” but also in his sensitive leadership of worship and teaching. His scientific background and expertise with new technology have been a blessing in an age when the Church is being constantly challenged in these areas.

Bill will be with us over the summer and there will be an opportunity (the arrival of a new addition to their family permitting!) to say farewell to him at our All Age Service and Barbecue at the end of Holiday Club on 14th August. We will all miss Bill but we rejoice with him at this exciting time as he and Hayley and Ewan look forward to their move back to the States and we pray for them as a new stage in family life and ministry beckon. We remember also the congregation in New Vernon as they look forward to Bill's induction in October.

In the meantime here in Greenbank a Group set up by the Kirk Session have begun to advertise and interview prospective candidates for the post of Youth Associate. That we are in a position to continue to give this priority to our work with young people is possible due to the funds raised by the YACHT project and we thank all those who have supported this fund-raising effort to date – please continue to do so!

Other changes are also taking place at this time – I mentioned above “Young Church” and you will read later in this *Leaflet* about the way in which the young people are “rebranding” themselves and we look forward to the launch of Young Church at worship on Sunday 19th June.

Elsewhere in the life of our congregation, the Communications Committee have been considering a change in the format of the *Leaflet* and we hope to move to this new format for the September edition. Meanwhile, our green energy group, who started out looking at ways in which we might conserve energy and reduce our fuel bills, are becoming more convinced of the need for us to see this in the wider context of the Church's mission and the responsibility to care for God's creation. The Report of the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland to this year's General Assembly addresses the theme of climate change, and illustrates the challenges which it presents to our partner churches in what are already some of the poorest parts of the world. I would encourage you to read this – it is available on-line on the Church of Scotland website on the General Assembly page.

These are all exciting developments and we give thanks for the gifts and skills of all who give so generously of themselves in the service of Jesus Christ and his Church. If any of you have a particular interest in any of these areas of work or any other aspect of the life of the congregation then please do not hesitate to contact me and I can put you in touch with the right person.

In the meantime I hope that this summer will offer you all an opportunity for rest and recreation of body, mind and spirit.

With warmest wishes

Alison I Swindells
Parish Minister

GREENBANK PARISH CHURCH

Programme for Session 2016/2017



2016

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| 7 Aug (Sun) | 9.30 | Last of Summer Family Services |
| 8 Aug (Mon) – 12 Aug (Fri) | 10.00–12 noon | Holiday Club |
| 14 Aug (Sun) | 10.30 | All Age Worship with Holiday Club |
| 19 Aug (Fri) | | Pre-school start of 1st term |
| 21 Aug (Sun) | 10.00 | Young Church (S1–S3) start of 1st term |
| | 10.30 | Young Church (pre-school & primary) start of 1st term |
| 2 Sep (Fri) | 19.30 | Pre-Communion Service. All welcome |
| 4 Sep (Sun) | | Communion Services at 9.00, 10.30 and 15.00 Young Church meets as usual at 10.00 and 10.30 |
| 6 Sep (Tues) | 19.30 | Kirk Session Meeting |
| 10 Sep (Sat) | 16.00–18.00 | Messy Church |
| 19 Sep (Mon) | | Pre-school closed |
| 24 Sep (Sat) | 18.30 | YACHT Ceilidh |
| 25 Sep (Sun) | 10.30 | All Age Celebration for Harvest |
| 1 Oct (Sat) | 14.00 | YACHT Family Treasure Hunt |
| 2 Oct (Sun) | 9.30 | First Sunday Service led by Young Church (S1–S3) |
| 11 Oct (Tues) | 19.30 | Congregational Board Meeting |
| 16 Oct (Sun) | | No meeting of Young Church (there will be provision for children) |
| 17 Oct (Mon) – 21 Oct (Fri) | | Pre-school closed |
| 6 Nov (Sun) | 9.30 | First Sunday Service led by The Guild |
| | 11.45 | Christmas Card Sale |
| 8 Nov (Tues) | 19.30 | Kirk Session Meeting |
| 13 Nov (Sun) – 20 Nov (Sun) | | Guild Week |
| 13 Nov (Sun) | 10.45 | Remembrance Service (Young Church begins as usual in church at 10.45, except pre-schoolers who meet in the Upper Hall at 10.45) |
| 19 Nov (Sat) | 16.00–18.00 | Messy Church |
| 26 Nov (Sat) | 19.30 | YACHT St Andrews Night Dinner |
| 27 Nov (Sun) | | First Sunday in Advent Start of Christmas Offering for Christian Aid |
| 2 Dec (Fri) | 19.30 | Pre-Communion Service. All welcome |
| 3 Dec (Sat) | 13.30-16.30 | Christmas Event for Children |
| 4 Dec (Sun) | | Second Sunday in Advent Communion Services at 9.00, 10.30 and 15.00 Young Church meets as usual at 10.00 and 10.30 |
| 11 Dec (Sun) | 10.30 | Third Sunday in Advent Lessons and Carols |
| | 15.00 | Blue Christmas Service |
| 13 Dec (Tues) | 19.30 | Congregational Board Meeting |
| 18 Dec (Sun) | 10.30 | Fourth Sunday in Advent All Age Gift Service Young Church end of 1st term |
| 21 Dec (Wed) | | Pre-school end of 1st term |
| 24 Dec (Sat) | | Christmas Eve 19.00 Christmas Eve Family Service 23.30 Christmas Eve Watchnight Service, (Carol Singing from 23.10) |
| 25 Dec (Sun) | 10.30 | Christmas Day Family Service for Christmas Day |

2017

| | | |
|-------------|-------|---|
| 8 Jan (Sun) | 10.00 | Young Church (S1–S3) start of 2nd term |
| | 10.30 | Young Church (pre-school & primary) start of 2nd term |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| 10 Jan (Tues) | | Pre-school start of 2nd term |
| | 19.30 | Kirk Session Meeting |
| 21 Jan (Sat) | 16.00–18.00 | Messy Church |
| 24 Jan (Tues) | 19.30 | Congregational Board Meeting |
| 31 Jan (Tues) | | Guild fund-raising event |
| 5 Feb (Sun) | 9.30 | First Sunday Service led by Help the Homeless |
| | 10.30 | Uniformed Organisations Service |
| 12 Feb (Sun) | | No meeting of Young Church (there will be provision for children) |
| 13 Feb (Mon) – 17 Feb (Fri) | | Pre-school closed |
| 3 Mar (Fri) | | World Day of Prayer (at Greenbank) |
| | 19.30 | Pre-Communion Service. All welcome |
| 5 Mar (Sun) | | First Sunday in Lent Communion Services at 9.00, 10.30 and 15.00 Young Church meets as usual at 10.00 and 10.30 |
| 12 Mar (Sun) | | Second Sunday in Lent |
| 14 Mar (Tues) | 19.00 | Trustees Meeting |
| | 19.30 | Kirk Session Meeting |
| 19 Mar (Sun) | | Third Sunday in Lent Start of Lent/Easter Appeal Annual Business Meeting of Congregation during 10.30 Service |
| 22 Mar (Wed) | 19.30 | Congregational Board Meeting |
| 25 Mar (Sat) | 16.00–18.00 | Messy Church |
| 26 Mar (Sun) | | Fourth Sunday in Lent |
| 30 Mar (Thurs) | | Pre-school end of 2nd term |
| 2 Apr (Sun) | | Fifth Sunday in Lent |
| | 9.30 | First Sunday Service led by the House Group |
| 8 Apr (Sat) | | Scout Jumble Sale |
| 9 Apr (Sun) | | Palm Sunday Young Church end of 2nd term |
| 10 Apr (Mon) – 14 Apr (Fri) | | |
| | 19.30 | Holy Week Services (Morningside Parish Church) |
| 16 Apr (Sun) | | Easter Day |
| | 9.30 | Communion |
| | 10.30 | All Age Celebration (followed by egg rolling in Braidburn Valley Park) |
| 18 Apr (Tues) | | Pre-school start of 3rd term |
| | 19.30 | Kirk Session Meeting |
| 23 Apr (Sun) | 10.00 | Young Church (S1–S3) start of 3rd term |
| | 10.30 | Young Church (pre-school & primary) start of 3rd term |
| 30 Apr (Sun) | | Stewardship Sunday |
| 1 May (Mon) | | Pre-school closed |
| 7 May (Sun) | 9.30 | First Sunday Service led by Kirk Session |
| 14 May (Sun) – 20 May (Sat) | | Christian Aid Week |
| 22 May (Mon) | | Pre-school closed |
| 2 Jun (Fri) | 19.30 | Pre-Communion Service. All welcome |
| 4 Jun (Sun) | | Pentecost Communion Services at 9.00, 10.30 and 15.00 Young Church meets as usual at 10.00 and 10.30 |
| 6 Jun (Tues) | 19.30 | Kirk Session Meeting |
| 13 Jun (Tues) | 19.30 | Congregational Board Meeting |
| 18 Jun (Sun) | 10.30 | All Age Celebration with Young Church Young Church end of 3rd term |
| 25 Jun (Sun) | 9.30 | First of Summer Family Services |
| 29 Jun (Thurs) | | Pre-school end of year |

Friendship Club Outing

Lovely weather
Riding in comfortable buses
Driven by careful drivers
Strolling in peaceful parkland
Eating tasty food served in style
Sitting inside a huge steel structure
Listening to a flamboyant guide
Telling the story of the Fabulous Kelpies
GREAT DAY!

Val Smart



World Mission Stamp Appeal

Did you ever wonder what happens to the stamps we put in the box in the Church entrance?

Churches all over Scotland send stamps to a gentleman in Wishaw who sorts and sells them in aid of various projects. In 2015 the Church of Scotland HIV Programme received **£3,511** from this source.

The project for 2016 is the *Othara Eco-Spirituality Centre* in South India. This centre teaches the causes and impact of climate change and is planning to harvest and reuse rainwater, establish a biogas plant to power the kitchens and develop a small dairy and chicken farm for native breeds. They want to encourage people to understand and appreciate that “caring for the Earth is not only a calling, but a lifestyle”.

Please keep donating your stamps for this good cause.

Anne Oxbrow

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

The pastoral team can be contacted through the Church Office:

Rev Alison Swindells

tel and fax: 0131 447 4032

email: 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

June Issue of *Life and Work*



"I see the BB as my 'ministry'"

Interview with Bill Stephenson, Scottish leader of the Boys' Brigade

Freedom to S'up

The spoon invented by a Church of Scotland elder, which is transforming mealtimes for people with disabilities

General Assembly 2016

Another four pages rounding up reports to the assembly

Oxford's Secret

The work of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies

A Fragile Democracy

The role of a Church of Scotland partner in rebuilding peace in Sri Lanka

The Sound of Silence

Hannah Mary Goodlad describes the lessons drawn from working with deaf children among the impoverished in Tanzania

The Legacy of Today's Church of Scotland

The Rev Alastair Duncan considers what the Church of tomorrow might receive from the Church of today

Somme Commemoration

How an Edinburgh church will be a key part of this summer's ceremonies marking the centenary of the Battle of the Somme

Do You Hear What I Hear?

A new service for the deaf and hard of hearing from a Motherwell church

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

Online: Visit www.lifeandwork.org, or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Lent Easter Appeal and Offerings from Holy Week Services

In a letter on behalf of Edinburgh Clothing Store, Fiona Stimpson writes:

"I had the most wonderful surprise this morning at the Clothing Store when I opened John Ritchie's letter and found the cheque for £1,565.72 from Greenbank Church's Lent/Easter Appeal and from the offerings taken at the Holy Week Services held with Morningside Parish Church. It is an amazingly generous donation and I cannot thank everyone enough for their support – it is truly fantastic!



The support given by members of Greenbank Church over the years is tremendous and is much appreciated by the volunteers who run the Clothing Store. The clothing, bedding and towels which were collected over two Sundays in April were great and with the money (which will enable us to buy things which are in short supply but in great demand) it will make a tremendous difference to a lot of people who are in great need.

Thank you, once again, for all Greenbank Church does to help and support the Clothing Store."

More than Eighty Years On

A New Orchard

More than eighty years ago in honour of King George V's Silver Jubilee, the 162 Brownies and Guides took part in the Edinburgh Guides' planting of Cherry Trees, a tree for each Pack and Company, in the shape of a Guide Trefoil. The trees are still blossoming at the south end of Braidburn Park, though some have had to be replaced and I feel a helicopter would be required to appreciate the true shape of the paths between the trees!

In late autumn 2015 another orchard was planted at the north end of the park near the entrance to the Fly Walk. Two of the 1935 'planters', one from the 162 Pack, were present to help plant this orchard, which has been given the name of the *David Wright Memorial Orchard* in memory of a much loved greengrocer in Comiston Road who died about two weeks before the trees were planted.

Anne Morham

Greenbank Guild

Outing

Twenty-six members of the Guild enjoyed a meal at the Steading on 3rd May – a convivial outing to mark the end of the winter season.





The next Fresh Start collection is on **Sunday 19th June** at the Sunday Service (table in Main Hall).

The Starter Packs Service provides new tenants who have been homeless with essential items to set up home. The packs help relieve the financial burden that many new tenants face. Over 8,000 packs are distributed each year allowing around 2,000 new tenants across Edinburgh to benefit from the service.

Here is a list of the items needed. They should be in very good condition, such as you might like to receive.

Dishes and Crockery

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

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)



For more information about the work of Fresh Start, pick up a leaflet from me, see www.freshstartweb.org.uk or telephone 476 7741.

Alison Ambler

Guild Summer Coffee Mornings

The monthly summer coffee mornings start on **Tuesday 7th June from 10.30am to 11.45am** in the Main Hall. These are open to all members of the congregation, friends and visitors.

The other dates (all Tuesdays) are **5th July, 2nd August and 6th September**.

Kathleen Patrick

Young Church

You may be aware that over the last two years our Spectrum classes have been reorganised. Spectrum One now meets in the Braid and Hermitage rooms, and Spectrum Two and Three meet together in the Centenary Hall. Moving into new spaces and combining our classes has allowed our teachers to pool their resources, and also ensured that we are more likely to have a good number of children together on any given Sunday.

This new arrangement seems to be a success, and our YES group has decided to mark the change formally by updating the names of our programmes. From now on, Springboard, Spectrum and the Crèche will collectively be referred to as Young Church. We are inviting the young people to help choose a new name for their particular groups and will announce these at the start of the Autumn Term.

Bill Stone

Young Church Celebration and All Church BBQ

Our Young Church Celebration will take place on **Sunday 19th June at 10.30am**. It will be followed by a barbecue to which everyone is invited! This will be held in the Church halls and outside, weather permitting. We will have a brief singsong together and then the children and young people and their families are invited to go across to the Braidburn Valley for games (or we'll continue in the halls if wet). We look forward to a fun and sunny event!

Janet Ferguson

Sharing the Light

(Further reasons for supporting the *Light a Light* initiative.)

A light will shine for each one:

For my parents who brought me up in the community of Greenbank Church.

In memory of my father and my mother, both of whom were at the heart of Greenbank for many years.

For sixty years of happy marriage to my husband and the joy we both found in the fellowship of Greenbank Church

For a caring family and friends

For the friendship of six wonderful women, each with a strong faith, even through severe trials, whom it was my privilege to know as a Greenbank pastoral visitor for many years. Although all are now dead, I'm thankful for the memories of each one of them.

In gratitude to Alison for the beautiful funeral service which she conducted.

For my full recovery from a life-threatening illness, for the circle of friends at Greenbank who prayed for me and rejoiced with me at God's goodness at each stage of treatment, and for the excellent care given to me at the Western General Hospital.

For the gift of a grandchild who has brought a totally unexpected joy into my life.

YACHT News

A reminder before you take these well-earned holidays over the Summer that there are some YACHT dates for your diary. These are:



- 31st July 2016** Last date for entries to the *Photographic Competition*
- 24th Sept 2016** All age *YACHT Ceilidh, 6.30pm-10pm*
- 1st Oct 2016** *Family and Group Treasure Trail* for young and old, **2pm-5pm**
- 26th Nov 2016** Glittering *St Andrew's Night Fund Raising Dinner, 7.30pm-10.30pm*

Watch out for ticket sales and entry forms – see you there!

[YACHT Committee](#)

Greenbank Nonagenarian Coffee Morning

On 26th April seven Nonagenarians met for a very successful coffee morning reminiscing with much fun and laughter! Our combined ages came to 634 years.

Coffee was served by a very sprightly young maid (Maggie) who, as she was some ten years too young to qualify, knew that the only way she could join us was as a Lyons Corner House Nippy. (Mind you she didn't gatecrash as I asked her to help!)

[Anne Morham](#)



Congregational Register

Omitted from the online version of the Leaflet

Welcome Teams

June

- 5** **Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 12** **John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Hazel Macaulay, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Mark Fergusson
- 19** **John Rutherford**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Ian McWilliam
- 26** **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Greig Scott

July

- 3** **Rosemary McCulloch**, Rona Ferguson, Fiona Grant, Christina Morrow, Alison Murison, Malcolm Reid, Joan Ritchie, Toby Tucker, Alastair Ross
- 10** **Keith Winton**, Eileen Campbell, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo
- 17** **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Jenny Wright, Sandy Cameron, Carrie Reid, Moira Land, Julia Dunbar
- 24** **John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, Clare Campbell, Susan Jackman
- 31** **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay

August

- 7** **Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 14** **John Rutherford**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Ian McWilliam
- 21** **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Greig Scott
- 28** **John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Hazel Macaulay, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Mark Fergusson

September

- 4** **John Ritchie**, Eric Brown, Ralph Davidson, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman, Ian Thomson, Clare Campbell, Susan Jackman

Coffee Rota

June

- 5 Communion (*no coffee*)
- 12 Sharie Perks, Alison Murison and Lindsay Kennedy
- 19 Isobel and Ian Thom
- 26 Helen Barnes



July

- 3 Rona Sommerville and Julia Dunbar
- 10 Enid and John Mowat and Catherine Hardie
- 17 Rosemary McCulloch
- 24 Joan Ritchie
- 31 Clare Campbell

August

- 7 Anne Kinnear
- 14 Di Teasdale, Margot Fergusson, Vivien Hutchison and Roddy Morrison
- 21 Dorothy Whitehead
- 28 Edith Armit



Crêche Rota

June

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|---------------|
| 5 | Ailsa Cameron | Jenny Wright |
| 12 | Isobel Thom | Shona Murray |
| 19 | Janet Fergusson | Ailsa Cameron |
| 26 | Eileen McKinnon | Lucy Teall |

July

- | | | |
|----|------------------|------------------|
| 3 | Ailsa Cameron | Rachel McWilliam |
| 10 | Vivien Hutchison | Lorna Perriss |
| 17 | Margot Fergusson | Ailsa Cameron |
| 24 | Pauline Walker | Anne Kinnear |
| 31 | Ailsa Cameron | Hazel McLachlan |

August

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------|
| 7 | Gillian Sweetman | Jenny Wright |
| 14 | Eleanor Small | Carrie Reid |
| 21 | Moira Small | Lucy Teall |
| 28 | Nora Kellock | Lorna Htet-Khin |

Thank You from Morlich!

Thank you all for your support of Morlich House Coffee Morning at the end of April. We, the Friends Group, raised £1,020 which will be used to increase the Memory Street which is being constructed at Morlich to jog reminiscences. This facility is used by groups from other centres as well as Morlich's ladies.

It was a very happy morning and we are delighted to have raised this extra money for Morlich.



Anne Oxbrow

Flower Rota

Provided by



Delivered by

June

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 5 | Ina Weir | Irene Horne |
| 12 | Dorothy Whitehead | Dorothy Whitehead |
| 19 | Pauline Macdonald | Doris Laing |
| 26 | Janet McAinsh | Anne Morham |

July

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|------------------|
| 3 | Isobel Aitchison | Alison Murison |
| 10 | Kathleen Patrick | Margo Fraser |
| 17 | Frances Wight | Moira Davidson |
| 24 | Rutherford Family | Cathie Maclennan |
| 31 | Isobel Brown & Anne Morham | Isobel Brown |

August

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 7 | Betty Hutson & Family | Kay Ellis |
| 14 | Gillian Sweetman | Ishbel Clark |
| 21 | Margot Fergusson | Jean Roynon-Jones |
| 28 | Moira Davidson | Catherine Denham |

September

- | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| 4 | Hutchison Family | Fiona Connal |
|---|------------------|--------------|

The Open Door



We have a new facebook page!

This will become a strong platform for sharing what we are up to, some community news, fundraisers, some fantastic soup recipes and much much more. We would love it if you could follow the link and like and share our page.

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Open-Door-Cafe-and-Day-Care-Service-156360699393762/>

We also have a brand new twitter page so you can follow us on this also:

<https://twitter.com/1982TOD>

Thank you for your continued support, it really does mean a great deal to us all.

Dolina Gorman
Fundraiser and Volunteer Co-ordinator

Material for the September *Leaflet* should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 14th August, or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 16th August to greenbankleaflet@googlemail.com

CONCERNING WORSHIP – HOLY COMMUNION

Much of our worship has to do with words: God's word to us through Scripture and sermon and our words to God in hymn, song and prayer. Important as the spoken word may be in helping us to understand God's love, of equal importance are certain actions. It is not enough that we hear about God's love in words: we need to see it. Along with the audible word we need the visible word. The same God who gave us ears to hear also gave us eyes to see. Actions and objects point beyond themselves to signify that which defies verbal description. A handshake, an embrace or a kiss does not compete with a spoken greeting: each strengthens the warmth and meaning of the other. In Christian worship both the spoken word, as found in our weekly worship, and the visible, as found in baptism and the Lord's Supper, complement each other. The washing of baptism illustrates what is said about forgiveness. In Holy Communion bread blessed, broken and shared, along with wine poured out and consumed, witness to what God has done for us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Forests of paper and oceans of ink have been consumed in countless attempts to describe and define what happens in the central act of Christian worship, the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. Even the range of names by which it is known indicates the debates which have raged over its significance: Eucharist, the Mass, Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, Breaking of Bread, the Divine Liturgy, the Sacrament of Sacraments. These various names reflect the emphases of different parts of the Church. For instance, those who refer to it mainly as the *Lord's Supper* place stress on its institution by Jesus and his role as host; *Communion* reminds us that the participants are bound to each other and to Christ in a holy fellowship; and *Eucharist*, which simply means thanksgiving, refers to a central aspect of the various accounts of Jesus sharing a final meal, the Last Supper, with his friends, in which Jesus is recorded as giving thanks to God.

The Last Supper was the climax of a series of meals shared by Jesus with his disciples and with the religious and moral outcasts of his day. His opponents may have objected, but Jesus used shared meals as a means of expressing the forgiveness, acceptance and companionship that belonged to God's salvation. Such meals were an anticipation of the kingdom of God, a preview of the way things would be. The Last Supper was a Passover meal. The Passover was an annual celebration of the way in which God had long ago delivered the Hebrew slaves from bondage in Egypt in order to establish them as his own distinctive people in the Promised Land. When families or groups of friends gathered in Jerusalem to eat the Passover meal, they were reminded in a very special way of the events which formed the basis of their relationship with God and their existence as a people. In a similar way, at the Lord's Table Christians recall how the Church became the new Israel of God. More than that, it can be said that Communion is the defining ritual of the Christian community. For nearly two thousand years it has provided historical continuity and a sense of identity for the whole Church. The Church owes

its life to its Lord and its fellowship to his supper. At and in and through this sacrament we are made the holy people of God through the ever-present Jesus Christ.

In what sense is Jesus Christ present in the Lord's Supper? Here we do well to avoid two extreme interpretations. At one end of the spectrum of understanding is the traditional Roman Catholic belief that when the priest blesses the bread and wine they are transformed miraculously though imperceptibly into Christ's body and blood and that with every Mass Jesus Christ is sacrificed anew. In recent times this belief has undergone considerable modification, but this revision has not proved universally acceptable within the Roman Catholic Church. At the other end is the view that reduces the sacrament to a commemorative meal, in which the worshippers do no more than gratefully remember what Jesus has done. At the Lord's Supper Jesus Christ is present, although neither bodily nor physically. When we receive the bread and the wine we do not eat the body and blood of Christ, but we may experience anew the life-giving grace of Christ, who is really present and active through his Spirit.

We do not do this on our own, as isolated individuals. At various times Christianity has become too individualistic, focussing on the relationship between the individual believer and God, to the exclusion of one's fellow worshippers. Our tradition ought to make that mistake impossible. We speak not of an altar at which a priest dispenses the bread and wine, but of the Lord's Table, sign of fellowship, divine and human. Ideally a meal is not merely a matter of satisfying our appetites as individuals, but is a social occasion, when the whole family meets together and eats together, enjoying each other's company as well as the food. As the bread and wine are passed from hand to hand along the pews, we are reminded that it is not only the Lord himself who gives to each member of his family, but that he does it through our neighbour's giving and fellowship. Not only are the participants one with Christ, they become one in Christ. More than that, our fellowship is not only with those around us in the congregation, but with the whole Church of Christ, the holy catholic or universal Church, and the Church Triumphant in heaven. That is why we pray for the whole Church on earth and remember with thanksgiving the redeemed in heaven. A prayer sometimes used at the end of the Lord's Supper sums this up in these words:

Gracious God,
 we give you glory, thanks, and praise
 for the dying and undying love
 of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
 In your great goodness
 you have brought us into communion with him
 and with all who love him,
 and made us heirs of your everlasting kingdom.
 By your grace, may we continue in this holy fellowship,
 and live to the glory of your name;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Editors regret that this is the final *Afterthoughts*. Our contributor feels that after many years it is time for him to retire. We have much enjoyed his range of informative and thought-provoking articles, and are very grateful for the work and research that has gone into producing challenging and inspirational material over the years.