

# Greenbank Connections



February 2018

Issue 667

Scottish Charity SCO11325



*Martin Ritchie with his wife Sarah, taken just after Martin had conducted morning worship on 21st January 2018 as Greenbank's sole nominee; see page 3*

## Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

Online version: [www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/](http://www.greenbankchurch.org/about/the-newsletter/)

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## Locum Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,



As I write this short letter I am entering on the final few weeks of my second period with you as your Locum Minister. (Last time was June 2006 to February 2007.) Once again it has proved to be a most enjoyable and stimulating experience. I thank you all for your support and your friendship and encouragement. This March will also mark the end of my sixth engagement as a locum since I retired in 2001, two of these lasting eighteen months. Those of you who know me well realised long ago that I shared the character of Tennyson's Ulysses – 'How dull it is to pause, to make an end, to rust unburnished, not to shine in use', but this time I am resolved that while perhaps 'tis not too late to seek a newer world', there will be no more locum ministries. It is good to be able to end up that part of my career on a high note. I am pleased to hand over to my successor a congregation that is vital and ready and raring to go. Now I trust you will welcome Dr Martin Ritchie with the same enthusiasm and openness as you always welcomed me.

*John Stevenson, Locum Minister*

## Our New Minister

We are delighted that Dr Martin Ritchie is to become our Minister. After conducting worship at Greenbank on 21st January he was elected unanimously by 270 votes to zero. Please show your support for Martin by signing the invitation to him (known as the Call). This is available to sign:

- after the services on 28th January and 4th February
- during weekdays until 5th February from 8.30am to 12 noon, from 1.30pm to 3pm and from 7pm to 9pm
- on Saturdays 27th January and 3rd February from 10am to noon.

Martin will be ordained into the Ministry of the Church of Scotland and inducted to Greenbank at a service **at Greenbank on 11th March at 6.30pm**. This will be followed by a time of socialising and hospitality in the Hall.

Valerie Macniven



*Doctors Martin and Sarah Ritchie graduated together in Edinburgh*

## Pulpit Diary

### **4 February**

- 9.30am First Sunday Service led by Help the Homeless
- 10.30am Uniformed Organisations Service

### **11 February**

- 10.30am Morning Worship

### **18 February (First in Lent)**

- 10.30am Morning Worship

### **25 February (Second in Lent)**

- 10.30am Morning Worship

### **4 March (Third in Lent)**

- 9.00am Communion
- 10.30am Communion
- 3.00pm Communion

### **11 March (Fourth in Lent)**

- 10.30am Morning Worship
- 6.30pm Ordination and Induction of Dr Martin Ritchie

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## Christingle Service

*Held at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve at Greenbank Parish Church*



*The Sanctuary, ready for the Service*

## Retiral of Roger Bland from the Kirk Session

Roger Bland has indicated that he will retire from the Kirk Session at the end of March after 48 years of service. He was ordained as an elder and admitted to the eldership in Greenbank in 1970. After a brief period with District 33, he became the elder for District 65 in 1974 and so has looked after the members there for over 40 years.

Roger has served on many of our Committees and was Preses of the Board from 1992-1997. He was our representative to the Presbytery and served the Church of Scotland centrally as a member of the Panel on Doctrine. He was also one of the most committed members of our team of prison visitors. Roger has been a dedicated member of Session, rarely missing a meeting and always contributing with wisdom, courtesy and a touch of humour. He has been a good role model for new elders and generously gave them his encouragement and support. In Session and in his District he will be much missed but we will continue to enjoy his fellowship as a faithful Greenbank member.



Valerie Macniven

## World Day of Prayer, Friday 2nd March 2018

*Prepared by the Christian women of Suriname*

The following information is an extract from the 2018 service notes.

“In 1910 more than 400 women met for the World Mission Conference (Edinburgh) bringing the experience and wisdom they had developed through years of ecumenical partnership in many countries. World Day of Prayer was born. Today World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical prayer movement bringing millions from over 100 countries together to pray each year.”

The service includes prayers and hymns for a different country each year. This year we are thinking about the people of Suriname. The service for the Morningside district, to which everyone is invited, will take place on Friday 2nd March 2018 in St Peter's Roman Catholic Church at 10.30am.



Margaret Barrowman

## Amy in India

If I was asked to recall what I would remember the most from my two weeks in India late last year, I would struggle. Over my time in both Tuni and Hyderabad I met over 600 children, quite a few of whom were my age. Every single one of them (and I'm not just saying this because I feel like this is the right thing to say) were incredible and more kind, brave and content than I could ever dream of being. Their smiles, that's what I will remember forever; their smiles when they were given their daily piece of fruit; when they saw a friend; when you asked them about their family or about how well they were doing in school.

However, to me they were much more than some inspiring children that I went to visit as part of a life changing trip, they were

my friends. Friends that I could relate to, chat to and friends that I could just have a laugh with. No matter the language barrier or the completely different lives we all led, we all had hopes and desires for the future, for good grades, a good job, a family, but most of all happiness. They did all have one thing that I think many of my friends in the UK lack and that is determination. Here people often say they want to do this thing, go to this place but actually it's too much effort they don't believe they'll actually get there so they give up. But with my friends in India it's different. If they wanted anything they worked so hard for it. I've never experienced or seen the enthusiasm they had for school, for learning. They all had dreams for the future, all had ideas of what they wanted to be. They all had



the determination to get to where they wanted to be and I look up to them for that, alongside many other things. They spend most of their time when out of school studying or doing homework each night as well as playing sport and games and chatting with friends, but when it comes to homework and studying, the older ones just sit outside with a group of their friends and help



work and they don't get distracted like I do or most other people I know do. They focus, get it done, and try as hard as they can so that they work to their full ability.

Their contentment is another thing that makes every single one of those children incredible. Most of the people in my school year have a smart phone, a TV and a computer or laptop yet I always hear and I quite often say how I wish I had this model of iPhone or this book or this laptop or new clothes or the words 'it's not fair' are uttered on a daily basis. Whereas the children in India, who have one small

box of possessions which includes all their books and their clothes (and most of these boxes are not even half full), are the most grateful and content.

Appreciation of everything and everyone around you is such a beautiful gift to have and everyone, but especially the children that I met and made friends with in India, had that gift, even the ones with close to nothing appreciated every little thing they had. I really need to improve on that and so do most people.

The children I met and the friends I made in India are some of the most amazing, inspirational, welcoming and motivated people I know and I gave them so little but they taught me so much and gave me something I will remember forever and for that I am so grateful.

*Amy Barnes, QII / Springboard*

*Amy visited India in late 2017 as a member of a volunteer group organised by Scottish Love in Action. For more information about SLA, please see [www.sla-india.org/](http://www.sla-india.org/)*



## World Mission: 24th of the Month Event & Fairtrade Fortnight

Donald Trump's decision to officially recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital city has received mixed reactions, with the majority of UN general assembly members rejecting the decision. Many believe that ongoing work to make Jerusalem a city of peace, life and dignity for all its inhabitants will become more difficult. For a number of years the Church of Scotland, along with Christian Aid and the Scottish Episcopal Church, and in partnership with the worldwide ACT Alliance of churches, has joined an ecumenical prayer vigil across the globe on the 24th of every month, to pray with and for our sisters and brothers in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.

*God of love, lifting up the holy land for all humankind, breathe love and compassion into our prayers with a desire for nothing other than peace: peace in our hearts, peace for all creation, and especially peace in the land that is called holy.*

*God of mercy, even as we long to understand that which is often beyond our comprehension, we lay before you the hearts, minds and bodies of all those suffering from conflict in Palestine and Israel and from the ongoing occupation. Shower upon all the people of the Holy Land the spirit of justice and reconciliation.*

We can all play our part in this by marking the 24th of each month in our calendars – a Prayer for Peace in the Middle East and other resources are available from the Church of Scotland website.

### Fairtrade Fortnight

Although there is no Fair Trade Stall in February, *Fairtrade Fortnight* is from Monday 26th February through to 11th March. Our next stall is on **Sunday, 11th March** when we shall be selling Easter Eggs and other Easter treats together with some of our usual stock.

*Janet Edwards, World Mission Team*

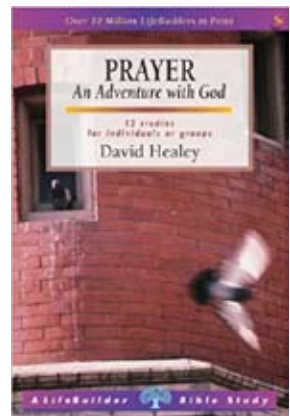
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## Monday Bible Study Group

We meet at 7.30pm in the Pentland Room for Bible study lasting about one hour followed by refreshments. Our current studies are based on *Prayer – An Adventure with God* by David Healey (Scripture Union).

- |                 |                               |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>29th Jan</b> | Prayer and Spiritual Conflict | <i>Daniel 10</i>        |
| <b>12th Feb</b> | Praying for the Nation        | <i>Ezekiel 22:23-31</i> |
| <b>12th Mar</b> | Praying for everyone          | <i>1 Timothy 2:1-8</i>  |

For further information please contact *Joan Ritchie* or *Gillian Sweetman*.





## Christmas Event for children

In early December Greenbank Church held another very successful outreach event for children in our area which attracted 67 children of primary school age to hear the Christmas story. For three hours they took part in Christmas activities provided by members of the congregation representing all ages and many different skills.

We are so lucky at Greenbank to have so many adults and young adults happy to give up their time at such a busy time of year to prepare for this event, and to work with the children to spread the Christmas message in our community.

As has become our tradition, we finished with ice creams for all and carol singing led by Tom Inglis before the children were collected by their parents and left proudly carrying a bag of things (see pictures below) they had made. This year we had the added bonus of the lighting of the Christmas tree outside the church, which many families stayed to see, and we all enjoyed more singing. The children were able to light the way to the tree with the lanterns they had made that afternoon.

Thank you to all who helped!

**Alison Reid**



*Christmas bead star*



*Christmas biscuit*



*Christmas brooch*



*Goody bag*



*Carol singing with Tom Inglis*



The next collection dates are *Sundays 11th February and 11th March* at the Sunday service (table set up in the Main Hall). Thanks to all who have responded to my request for donations to this worthwhile cause. The need for good quality donations to the starter pack scheme is as great as ever.

A full list of the items wanted for the starter packs was in last month's Connections. Pick up a leaflet from me, see [www.fresh-startweb.org.uk](http://www.fresh-startweb.org.uk) or telephone 476 7741 for more information about the work of Fresh Start.

**Alison Ambler**  
(email: [alison@ambler.me.uk](mailto:alison@ambler.me.uk))

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## Christmas Gifts

### *Thank you!*

Very many thanks to everyone who responded so generously to our request for Christmas gifts. We were able to pass on a large number of presents which will have brought happiness to many children and young people and their families.

**Janet Ferguson**



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## Friendship Club

Here we are in February already. We begin on Wednesday 7th with a talk about the *Vine Trust's work in Tanzania* given by Elspeth Macdonald. We then look forward on the 21st to another of Walter Crosby's fabulous travelogues, this time to *Jordan*. On the 28th Kathleen will be entertaining the Music Group with some *Romantic Reflections*, then at our first meeting in March on the 7th we'll discover more about the *Camphill Community*, close to home at Torphin.

We are looking for suggestions for our annual outing in May so please get in touch if you have any good ideas.

**Val Smart**

## Eco Column 2018

The Eco Congregation Group has looked at our progress towards Eco Congregation Award status, and considers that we are heading towards bronze standard. A fresh impetus is however needed to get us there, and this includes involving more members in a number of actions.

This year's activity was kicked off with a film night on 14th January, screening Leonardo di Caprio's film *Before the Flood*. It covered in graphic detail the continuing damage being done to God's creation, principally by the endless exploitation of fossil fuels and its now clearly established link to adverse impact on climate change. Projections for the near future suggest a permanent melting of the Arctic ice, sea levels rising, global warming, crop failures, widespread droughts and changes to the Gulf Stream flow which ironically might mean a much colder Europe.

Some 30 people attended the event, and there was a lively discussion afterwards, with suggestions made for local and personal action in areas such as food sourcing, campaigning for more tree planting, and lobbying against fossil fuel investment.

John Ferguson, leading the discussion, noted that as a congregation we needed more emphasis on worship content in re-



lation to caring for creation if we were to meet Eco Congregation objectives. More action within Greenbank on eco matters (with more projects for energy conservation and other topics) was a priority, as was continuing to raise awareness amongst ourselves and the wider community about the crisis of climate change and the response needed to combat it.

There will be more activities and discussions arranged soon to take

things forward, so look out for these opportunities and consider playing a part in them, perhaps especially if you are not involved in other church activities at present.

Finally, two advice points to take on board for 2018:

- decide finally to change all your light bulbs to LEDs – it saves you money and it saves the planet
- think carefully about buying products (including certain foodstuffs, cosmetics and cleaning materials) which contain palm oil which is not sustainably sourced. The rapid expansion of palm oil plantations has removed vast areas of Indonesian rain forest, with a consequent reduction in biodiversity and permanent damage to the richness of God's creation.

**David Jack**

## Greenbank Scout Group

**Annual Jumble Sale Saturday 7th April 9.30am–12 noon**

During the week Monday 2nd to Friday 6th 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; and any other saleable items.

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

Unsold items will be offered to charities before disposal.

Stuart Sanders

Do come along on Saturday 7th April  
Tea/coffee and home baking on sale  
Admission £2



Scouts @ Greenbank

Be prepared for "probably the best..."

**JUMBLE** sale  
...in Edinburgh"

**SATURDAY 7th APRIL 2018 : 9.30am – 12 noon**

**GREENBANK CHURCH, BRAIDBURN TERRACE, EH10 6ES**

4th Braid Scout Group is registered as a Charity number SC015021

**Adults £2**

## Work Party

By Christmas the Work Party cupboard in the Hermitage Room was bare, just empty boxes and a few odd balls of yarn. But if you think the ladies have been idle over the Festive Period you are wrong.

At our first meeting on 11th January hats, jumpers, baby cardigans, twiddle muffs and a knee rug were all handed in. Helen Allan reported that she had bought lots of D.K. Machine washable yarn and a kind lady had handed in a bagful of yarn to



*Hats for Bethany Night Shelters*

the Church Office, so 2018 is off to a good start.

We intend to knit goods for the Edinburgh Clothing Store, Muirhouse Church, Bethany Night Shelter, Children 1st, Braeside, Open Door, Morlich, the Elms and

Simpsons this year.

If you would like to join us you will be very welcome. Our next meetings are on Thursdays 8th and 22nd February at 2.30pm in the Hermitage Room.

*Anne Oxbrow, Convenor*

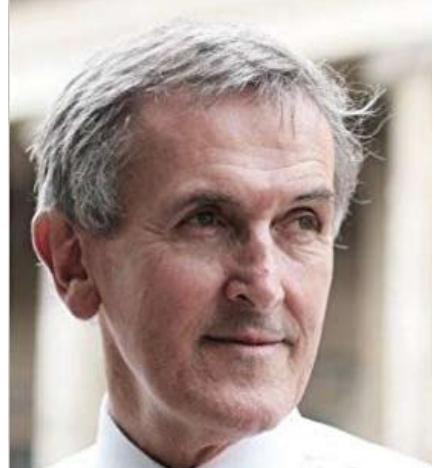


## Book Review

### **“Living with the Gods” by Neil MacGregor**

Those who enjoyed Neil MacGregor’s radio talks and book *A History of the World in 100 Objects* in 2010 may be interested to see the publication in March by Allen Lane of the book based on his recent series on *Living with the Gods*. These reflections on religious culture consider various objects such as a coat made from seal-gut by the Yukik people of Alaska and a figure of Osiris, an Egyptian deity connected with life, death and the underworld. This various material is held together by “Mr MacGregor’s interest in the role of religion and ritual in human society”. (*Economist* newspaper, 4 November 2017)

**Roger Bland**  
Adult Education Committee



*Neil MacGregor*

## Life and Work

### **March 2018 edition**

#### ***The Saints of Scotland***

As Valentine’s Day approaches, Jackie Macadam reflects on the saintly people who have influenced Scotland.

#### ***Faith into Action***

Profile of Professor Gordon Dickson, former chair of the charity CHAS and Church of Scotland elder.

#### ***A Fresh Statement of Faith?***

The Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald argues that it is time to return to the ‘unfinished business’ of reviewing the role of the Westminster Confession of Faith.

#### ***Making a Difference***

The Rev Colin Sinclair, outgoing chair of

International Council of Scripture Union, reflects on the charity’s work overseas

#### ***Sleeping Under the Stars***

Lynne McNeil reports from a mass sleep out on a freezing night in Edinburgh.

#### ***Off the Beaten Track***

The Rev Richard Baxter considers the message of Biblical encounters in out of the way places

*Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords*

*Online, visit us at [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org) for regular news and exclusive features, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @cof-slifework*

## Welcome Teams

### February

- 4 **Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 11 **Ian Thom**, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Catherine Hardie, Elizabeth Htet-Khin, Anne Oxbrow, Isobel Thom, Kay Ellis, Charles Black, Catriana Black
- 18 **Caroline Kehoe**, David Allan, Richard Denison, Ian Mc William, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat, Jean Roynon-Jones, Lyndsay Kennedy
- 25 **Stuart Sanders**, Moira Davidson, John Murison, Rachel Cadell, Sandy Cameron, Carrie Reid, Moira Land, Julia Dunbar

### March

- 4 **Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay

## The Guild

Having finished 2017 in fine style with a very interesting talk about Dundee, the city of Discovery, and an excellent Christmas Party, we started 2018 with a chatty and cheerful Coffee Morning and an informative afternoon with Fairmilehead Guild where the topic was *Fruit and Flowers of the Bible*.

We start February with the Rev Alex Shuttleworth and an intriguing topic *Anything will do* on the 6th. Then on

## Congregational Register

*Omitted from the online  
version of Connections*

20th February Sister Isabel Smyth S.N.D. will tell us about *Becoming a Nun*.

In March we look forward to the *World Day of Prayer* at St Peters Church on Friday 2nd. On 6th

March our meeting will be about *Playlist for Life*, the new charity set up by Sally Magnusson which uses music to improve the lives of those living with Dementia. This should be a particularly interesting evening.



**Edith Armit**

## Greenbank Calendar

### February

3 Sat	4pm	Messy Church
4 Sun	9.30	First Sunday Service
	10.30	Uniformed Organisations Service
6 Tues	19.30	Guild
7 Wed	14.30	Friendship Club
	19.30	Country Dance Club
8 Thurs	14.30	Work Party
11 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
14 Wed	19.30	Country Dance Club
18 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
20 Tues	19.30	Guild
21 Wed	14.30	Friendship Club
	19.30	Country Dance Club
22 Thurs	14.30	Work Party
25 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
28 Wed	14.30	Friendship Club
	19.30	Country Dance Club

### March

2 Fri	11am	World Day of Prayer
4 Sun	9.00, 10.30, 15.00	Communion
	10.30	Morning Worship
11 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship
	18.30	Ordination and Induction of Dr Martin Ritchie
17 Sat	16.00	Messy Church
18 Sun	10.30	Morning Worship



## Coffee Rota

### February

- 4 SLA
- 11 Choir
- 18 Susan Inch & Chris Horne (D48, 37, 66A & 67)
- 25 Alison & John Murison (D6o & 62)



### March

- 4 Communion (*no coffee*)

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

*Rev Dr John Stevenson*

*tel: 0131 445 3960*

*email: john.stevenson27@btinternet.com*

*Rev W. Peter Graham*

*tel: 0131 445 5763*

*email: isabelandpeter@btinternet.com*

*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 or email address given, if there is one. Otherwise contact the Church Office.*

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

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

**Material for the March issue of Greenbank Connections should be delivered to the Church Office or to the Editors' pigeon-hole in the Main Hall by Sunday 11th February or sent by e-mail by 9am on Tuesday 13th February to**

*[greenbankconnections@gmail.com](mailto:greenbankconnections@gmail.com)*