

Greenbank Connections



March 2018

Issue 668

Scottish Charity SCO11325



Greenbank's Youth Organisations Service, held on Sunday 4th February 2018 (see page 6)

Greenbank Parish Church, Edinburgh

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

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Locum Minister's Reflection



I have often reflected that sometimes we do not know a person until we attend their funeral. When I hear a eulogy or a tribute given for someone whom I thought I knew, I often find myself realising how little I really did know of that person's life and attainments and struggles.

The novelist Franz Kafka once wrote in a letter, 'We are as forlorn as children lost in the woods. When you stand in front of me and look at me, what do you know of the griefs that are in me and what do I know of yours. And if I were to cast myself down before you and weep and tell you, what more would you know about me than you know about Hell when someone tells you it is hot and dreadful? For that reason alone we human beings ought to stand before one another as reverently, as reflectively, as lovingly, as we would before the entrance to Hell.' (*Letter to Oskar Pollak, November 8, 1903.*) For Kafka the individual fears that there is no one who can understand him for there is no one exactly like himself.

The world often seems a cold and indifferent place. No matter what is happening in your personal life, the world goes on uncaringly. 'Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone, prevent the dog from barking, silence the pianos' wrote W. H. Auden, but of course that never happens. The music plays, the buses run and people go to and fro about their business. Indeed it is only the concern and interest of our fellow Christians that may rescue us from aloneness. It is the warmth and understanding of the church community that banishes the cold of isolation. Certainly Mairi and I will never forget the love and support so many of you have shown us during Mairi's illness. Thank you.

How to love and care enough so that we can appreciate something of how the other feels, and recognise the signals even when these may be confusing, how to try and understand why others do what they do, these are the goals we must set ourselves within our relationships. Moreover we have to realise that searching for the truth about others always involves us in self-understanding and a discovery of truths about ourselves. There is so much we need to learn about how to listen and respond, about how to help and how to heal, about trust and forgiveness. I am not always an easy person to understand, no more are you. So let us approach each other with caring interest and reflective wonder. The church has to be broad enough and tolerant enough to make allowances for the variety and complexity of our natures and motives and beliefs.

John Stevenson, *Locum Minister*

Pulpit Diary

Mar 4 *Third in Lent*

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

Mar 11 *Fourth in Lent*

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

Mar 18 *Fifth in Lent (Martin's First Service as Minister)*

- 10.30am Morning Service with former Moderator, the Very Rev Dr John Cairns

Mar 25 *Palm Sunday*

- 10.30am Morning Service

Mar 26 (Monday) – Mar 30 (Friday) *United Holy Week Services*

- 7.30pm At Greenbank Parish Church

Mar 29 *Maundy Thursday*

- 7.30pm Communion

Mar 30 *Good Friday*

- 7.30pm Readings, reflection and music

Apr 1 *Easter Day*

- 9.30am Communion
- 10.30am Morning Service followed by egg-rolling in Braidburn Park



Invitation to Dr Martin Ritchie's Ordination & Induction *at Greenbank Parish Church on Sunday 11th March at 6.30pm*

Our new minister will be ordained and inducted at a service of worship conducted by the Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery. Members and friends of Greenbank are invited to attend the service, which marks the start of Martin's ministry, and then to move to the Main Hall for a light buffet

supper, during which there will be an opportunity to thank those who have led us so ably during the vacancy. Those attending will have the chance to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the supper.

Joan Ritchie

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

“Thank You For The Music”

The Greenbank Choir is planning an exciting event on **Saturday 12th May**, to wish a fond farewell to our much-loved Organist and Choirmaster, Alan Irvine – and you are invited! Tickets, priced **£10 (£5 for under 12s)**, will be on sale during March.

There will be a concert showcasing Greenbank's many musical talents in the Church starting at 7.30pm, preceded by a buffet

meal in the Main Hall at 6pm. Donald MacLeod, Joshua Munyao and friends are again providing the fare, and all tastes will be catered for.

A retiring collection will be taken in aid of **Music in Hospitals & Care (MiHC)**. For details, please see <https://mihc.org.uk/> Any profits from the ticket price will also go to this charity.

John Murison

Eco Column – Lenten Studies Programme 2018

5th, 12th and 19th March

This year the Lent study programme is entitled *Climate change and the purposes of God*.

Three study sessions will take place on Monday evenings – **5th, 12th and 19th March**. Refreshments will be served from 7pm, and the sessions themselves start in the Braid Room at 7.30pm. Each will last an hour or so.

This is an opportunity for everyone to think as Christians about the crisis of climate change. The content visits aspects of politics, economics and the key environmental issues, but focuses on how care for creation relates to the Gospel of Christ and how our responsibilities as disciples of Jesus to care for God's earth can be best undertaken.

The theme links to our commitments to be a fully accredited Eco Congregation, and is a somewhat different approach to the Lent studies we have held in the past. It offers plenty of scope, however, to give up a few things for Lent as contributions to limiting climate change!

There will be discussion material available for each session on the night and a different group leader will present and moderate each evening's proceedings. It is emphasised



that there is no obligation to attend on all three Mondays – you can drop in and out of the programme as you wish.

The titles of each are as follows:

- ▷ *Does climate change matter, and if so, why does it matter?*
- ▷ *What is God asking of me?*
- ▷ *What can I do now to cherish God's earth?*

Do take this opportunity to join with others to address these challenging issues in the context of our faith community here in Greenbank.

David Jack

Friendship Club

James Strong of the *Camphill Community* based at *Tiphereth*, Torphin will be telling us about the work there at our first meeting in March on **Wednesday 7th**. Kathleen will be back to her usual mid-month slot on the 14th with a *Seasonal Selection* of her music, then on the 21st we'll have a

welcome return of Andy Johnston who will be showing us more of his wonderful photographs – some *Jewels of the Forth*. Our winter season over, we look forward to our outing in May, still to be finalised: more information next month.

Val Smart

Youth Organisations Service

Our annual Youth Organisations Service was on Sunday 5th February and, as usual, the church was almost full (*see cover photograph*). About 150 Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts and Explorers were there, with their colours.

This year's service took up the theme of the *Year of Young People*, promoted by the Scottish Government and supported by the Church of Scotland "Celebrating the Achievements of Young People"; and was illustrated by each group – for example in song (Rainbows), dance (Brownies), quiz (Cubs) and cooking (Scouts). There was the opportunity for present and former members of all the organisations to renew their promises and for the congregation to see a slide show of photographs of the work of each organisation.

John Stevenson's reflection on a passage

from Ecclesiasticus considered the varied skills young people brought to society and the importance of learning from disappointment and hardship as well as from success and achievement.

Over coffee afterwards, the Guides ran a cake stall and raised **£232** which will pay for 2 years' education of a girl in India whom they have adopted and about whom they had spoken during the service.

The Church of Scotland has drawn up a *Year of Young People* pledge for congregations to sign, committing to engaging and praying for children and young people and exploring new ways to encourage their participation in the life of the church. Greenbank's pledge was signed at the Kirk Session meeting on 11th November and the Youth Organisations Service exemplifies the strength of our commitment.

Duncan Macniven

Christian Aid



As I write, collectors are being approached to ask if they will take part in Christian Aid week again this May. Inevitably, often after many years of collecting, some collectors will be

retiring and so we are always in need of fresh offers of help from those willing to take on a street.

We're also still looking for a co-ordinator for this activity.

Please see Helen Barnes or David Ferguson who will be delighted to discuss either of these opportunities with you.

David Ferguson

The 90kg Rice Challenge

Sunday 11th March

Just Trading Scotland (JTS) is a not-for-profit fair trade organisation that works directly with smallholder farmers in Malawi. JTS



is launching its new 90kg Rice Challenge pack and it focuses on Global Citizenship, social enterprise and fair trade. A farmer in Malawi can afford to send ONE child to school for ONE year if they can sell 90kg of Kilombero Rice. The 90kg Rice Challenge is really very simple – if we sell 90kg of rice this enables us to send a Malawian rice farmer's child to Secondary school for a Year!

Since we all believe education is the key out of poverty and are aware that JTS is working to develop sustainable Markets for smallholder rice farmers and their

families, we can help by participating in their 90kg Rice Challenge! This is a great opportunity to promote Global Citizenship, and

fair trade outside of Fairtrade Fortnight. As a Fairtrade Congregation, the Greenbank World Mission Team has agreed to try selling this 90kg Rice Challenge during our next **One World Stall** which will be held on **Sunday 11th March** and we will have both white and brown rice available. The rice will be packaged in 1kg bags and the cost will be £3 per kg.

We encourage everyone to support the Malawian Rice Farmers by purchasing their rice; by doing so we will help them get a fair price for their produce.

Grace Maweu
World Mission Team

Lent/Easter Appeal

At the January meeting of the Congregational Board it was agreed that money raised in the Lent/Easter 2018 appeal be shared between **Myeloma UK** and **Crossreach**.

Myeloma is a rare and incurable cancer of the plasma cells; around 17,500 people across the UK are currently living with myeloma. It is the second most common form of bone marrow cancer and represents 2% of all cancers. **Myeloma UK's** head office is in Edinburgh. For more information, go to www.myeloma.org.uk

Crossreach (formerly Social Care branch of the Church of Scotland) provides counselling centres which provide care and advice for, amongst others, children and the elderly. For more information, go to www.crossreach.org.uk

Alan Ramage

YACHT News

Burns Supper

As Burns might say, it was a right “gurlie nicht” (wild night!) that blew in a full house of 120 guests to the YACHT Burns Supper on 27th January 2018. But the warmth of the drinks and canapé reception in the Centenary Hall soon put that right before Niall Morrison and his young piper assistants, Katie Pink and Jamie Jackson, piped everyone into dinner in the Main Hall. And once there Chris and Rachel Rowley of Ballintaggart Farm treated us



to the finest food, with the traditional haggis being given a contemporary twist, all served by our talented and enthusiastic members from Springboard and QII. Duncan Wright addressed the Haggis with real energy and verve before the Rev Prof David Fergusson gave us a humorous and insightful Immortal Memory. Andrew Jack toasted the Lassies with some assurance and élan and Anne Kinnear replied on behalf of the gals with dash and flair. Good



humour and good company abounded. Music interspersed the speeches with virtuoso violin playing from Bethany Walsh; a strong and stirring performance of *The Star O' Rabbie Burns* from Alan Irvine; and to conclude the mellow tones of Tom Inglis and his guitar with *Ca' the Yowes* and *A Man's a Man for a' that*. You just had to be there!

The prize draw took place as the evening progressed and the night concluded with an auction to raise funds for the YACHT campaign, well led by Malcolm Reid as auctioneer. An estimated **£4,250** was raised on the event and enormous thanks

are due to all those who so generously donated auction items and prizes. Thanks also to David Henderson for supplying refreshments and to all who contributed to a memorable and fun evening. Should we do this all again in 2019?

Scouts

And a huge thanks also to our Scouts who contributed **£750** to the YACHT campaign as a share of the proceeds of the sale and delivery of Christmas Trees in December. A great effort and very much appreciated.

Jim Young



Burns Supper: drinks reception



The next collections for Fresh Start will be after the service on **Sundays 11th March and 29th April** (table set up in Main Hall). Please donate good quality household goods for the starter packs given out to people who are moving into their own tenancies after a period of homelessness. A list of suitable items can be found in the corridor leading to the Main Hall.

For further information, please contact me by telephone or email, look up the Fresh Start website:

www.freshstartweb.org.uk/

or pick up a leaflet from the Fresh Start table.

Alison Ambler
(email: alison@ambler.me.uk)

The Guild

We finished January with a lively history of the **Briggers**, the men who built the Forth Bridge. The two speakers had a deep understanding of both the ground breaking engineering of the bridge and of the social history of the builders. Their slides of the men and boys working at great heights without any kind of safety equipment were horrifying, and the stories of the consequent death toll made it clear why we should never complain about Health and Safety regulations.



February started with Rev Alex Shuttleworth and **Half Forgotten Memories** which kept us laughing and joyfully digging up our own memories as well as thinking about the importance of memory. In March we look forward to the **World Day of Prayer** at St Peter's on **2nd March at 10.30am**; and to **Playlist for Life**, the charity set up by Sally Magnusson to help those with dementia, on **6th March at 7.30pm**.

Edith Armit

Names are Important

Names are important, biblically speaking. The Old Testament is rife with puns, half-references, and allusions. The suffix ‘-el’, as we find in Michael, Ishmael, and the like, is translated as ‘god’ or ‘of God’. Abraham meets Melchizedek, the priest of ‘El Elyon,’ ‘God Most High’. Yet, this does not explicitly refer to the God who would name himself to Moses as YHWH – which is frequently rendered LORD instead.

Or, tellingly, when Jacob is renamed Israel, it is because Israel means ‘He who wrestles with God’ – foreshadowing the Exodus from Egypt, the complaints of the Sinai, the installation of judges, the syncretistic plea for a king (like the other nations), the railing of the prophets against the failures of the Israelites in their own time, and even the rejection of Jesus Christ. All from the name ‘Israel’.

Or, look again at the Divine Name spoken



to Moses: its vocal qualities are ephemeral, consisting of exhalations, as if to hint morphologically toward God’s own nature as one which we cannot grasp in totality. In a modern world ruled by ‘the measurable’, it is no surprise to me at all that an unmeasurable God is thought absurd or a stumbling block for some.

And, surely, we can all attest to wrestling with God – or at least the idols we call ‘God’ – before trading them in for ‘better’ idols. There is a line of continuity between Israel and ‘the Church’, in that respect. While others may have left God alone – we continue to wrestle yet. While others think God has vacated the world, or that we have killed God, or that God was never in the world to begin with – we continue to claim that God is present, alive, and active. We, not to put too fine a point on it, wrestle yet with God.

Steve Chaffee

Hall Monitor

The screen you see in the corridor on the way into the Main Hall is intended to bring news and events to all who use the church premises. If you know of an event or meeting that needs advertising, please let me know.

Alison Murison
alison.murison@gmail.com





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



A Report from the Scouts

The Greenbank Scout Troop (4th Braid) is having a particularly good year. We have 36 Scouts, which is the ideal number and our 6 Patrol Leaders (Callum Cooper Lee, Matthew Jacques, Finlay James, Andrew MacLeod, Tommy Stark and Patrick Stewart) have just attained the Chief Scout's Gold Award. It is many years since any of our Troop achieved this – the highest award for Scouts. That achievement is partly because we have a strong team of leaders led by Niall Morrison, who was awarded his Wood Badge (marking the completion of his training as Scout Leader) in December.

Douglas Vipond and Stuart Sanders, respectively chairman and secretary of

the Group Executive which oversees the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, and supports the Greenbank Explorer Scout Unit, also received awards recently. For Douglas, that marked 10 years' service to the Scouting movement. Stuart (an elder in the congregation) spent 16 years as leader of the Beavers and has clocked up a total of 30 years! New faces on the Executive are always welcome from interested members of the congregation. There are only 4 meetings per year so it is not a big commitment – and it is a real help to the Troop and the rest of the Group.

Duncan Macniven



Stuart Sanders

←The Scout Troop



Close-up of Gold award



Three of the Chief Scout's Gold Award winners, with Dave Colley and Niall Morrison

Life and Work: March 2018

The Church of Scotland and Brexit

How the Church, at home and abroad, is preparing for Britain's exit from the European Union.

There are just so many questions: a Church elder based in Brussels talks about her concerns for the future in post-Brexit Europe.

A Divine Gift

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson reflects on the benefits of humour.

Faith and Frankenstein

The Rev David McCarthy reflects on the Christian messages of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, first published 200 years ago this year.

Not posturing, but justice

Ron Ferguson considers the deeper messages of Lent.

Words Matter

The Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning emphasises the importance of free speech and silence.

The End of the Road

In the last of his series on people on the move in the Bible, the Rev Richard Baxter asks whether a journey's end is really a new beginning.

Climate change is a 'moral issue'

A Zambian minister's message to the developed world.

Handling the Holy Word

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers considers a sensitive touchstone of Church life.

Plus news, reviews, letters, registers and crosswords.

Online visit us at www.lifeandwork.org for regular news and exclusive features, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter [@cofslifeandwork](https://twitter.com/cofslifeandwork).

Special Offer

Life and Work readers can receive a 10% discount on Saint Andrew Press books, resources and stationery. (See opposite page.)



Congregational Register

*Omitted from the online
version of Connections*

Welcome Teams

March

- 4 Alan Armit**, Edith Armit, Louise Coghill, Iain Davidson, Hugh Cowan, Susan Black, Malcolm Watters, Nora Kellock, Elizabeth Mackay
- 11 Donald King**, Brian Barron, Walter Crosby, Donald MacLeod, Roderick Morrison, Mairi Stevenson, Jim Young, Kathryn Sangster
- 18 Keith Winton**, Richard Dunbar, Clifford Hastings, Chris Horne, Doris Laing, Enid Mowat, Robin Nimmo
- 25 John George**, Rhian Ferguson, Alastair Hunter, Kathleen Patrick, Dorothy Whitehead, Tony Foster, Diana Teasdale, Jill Powlett-Brown

April

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

Coffee Rota

March

- 4** Communion – *no coffee*
- 11** Lorna Perriss (D61A)
- 18** World Mission Group
- 25** David Jack (D72)



April

- 1** Caroline Kehoe (D70)

Flower Rota



Provided by *Delivered by*

March

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 4 Ray Dely | Rosemarie Crawford |
| 11 Anne Morham | Jill Mundy |
| | Isobel Brown |
| 18 Moira Land | Ann Pirie |
| 25 Isobel Hunter | Pauline Walker |

April

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 Jill Powlett-
Brown | Joan Cameron |
|---------------------------------|--------------|



Greenbank Calendar for March 2018

March

3 Sat	10.30 – 14.30 SLA Book Café
	16.00 Youth Club
4 Sun	Third in Lent
	9.00 Communion
	10.30 Communion
	15.00 Communion (Braid Room)
5 Mon	19.00 (for 19.30) Lenten Study
6 Tues	19.30 Guild
7 Wed	14.30 Friendship Club
	19.30 Country Dance Club
10 Sat	16.00 Youth Club
11 Sun	Fourth in Lent
	10.30 Morning Service
	18.30 Ordination and Induction of Dr Martin Ritchie
12 Mon	19.00 (for 19.30) Lenten Study
14 Wed	14.30 Friendship Club Music
	19.30 Country Dance Club
17 Sat	16.00 Messy Church
18 Sun	Fifth in Lent (Martin's first service as Minister)
	10.30 Morning Service with the Very Rev Dr John Cairns
19 Mon	19.00 (for 19.30) Lenten Study
20 Tues	19.30 Guild ABM
21 Wed	14.30 Friendship Club
	19.30 Country Dance Club
24 Sat	16.00 Youth Club
25 Sun	Palm Sunday
	10.30 Morning Service
26 Mon – 30 Fri	Holy Week Services at 19.30 Greenbank Parish Church
29 Thurs	Maunder Thursday
	19.30 Communion

30 Fri	Good Friday
	19.30 Readings, reflection and music

April

1 Sun	Easter Day
	9.30 Communion
	10.30 Morning Service followed by egg-rolling in Braidburn Park

*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 organisa-
tions, 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

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

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

greenbankconnections@gmail.com